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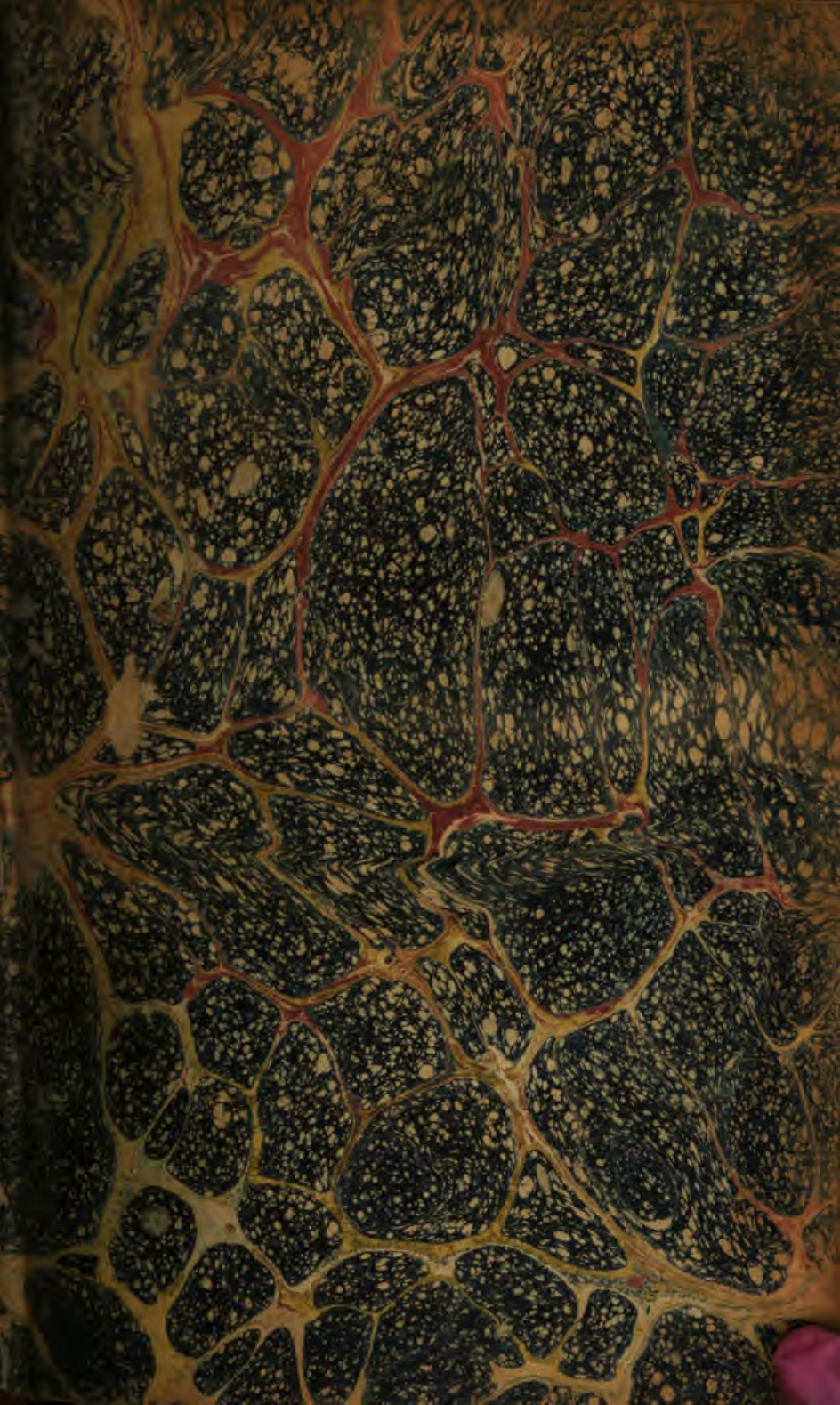
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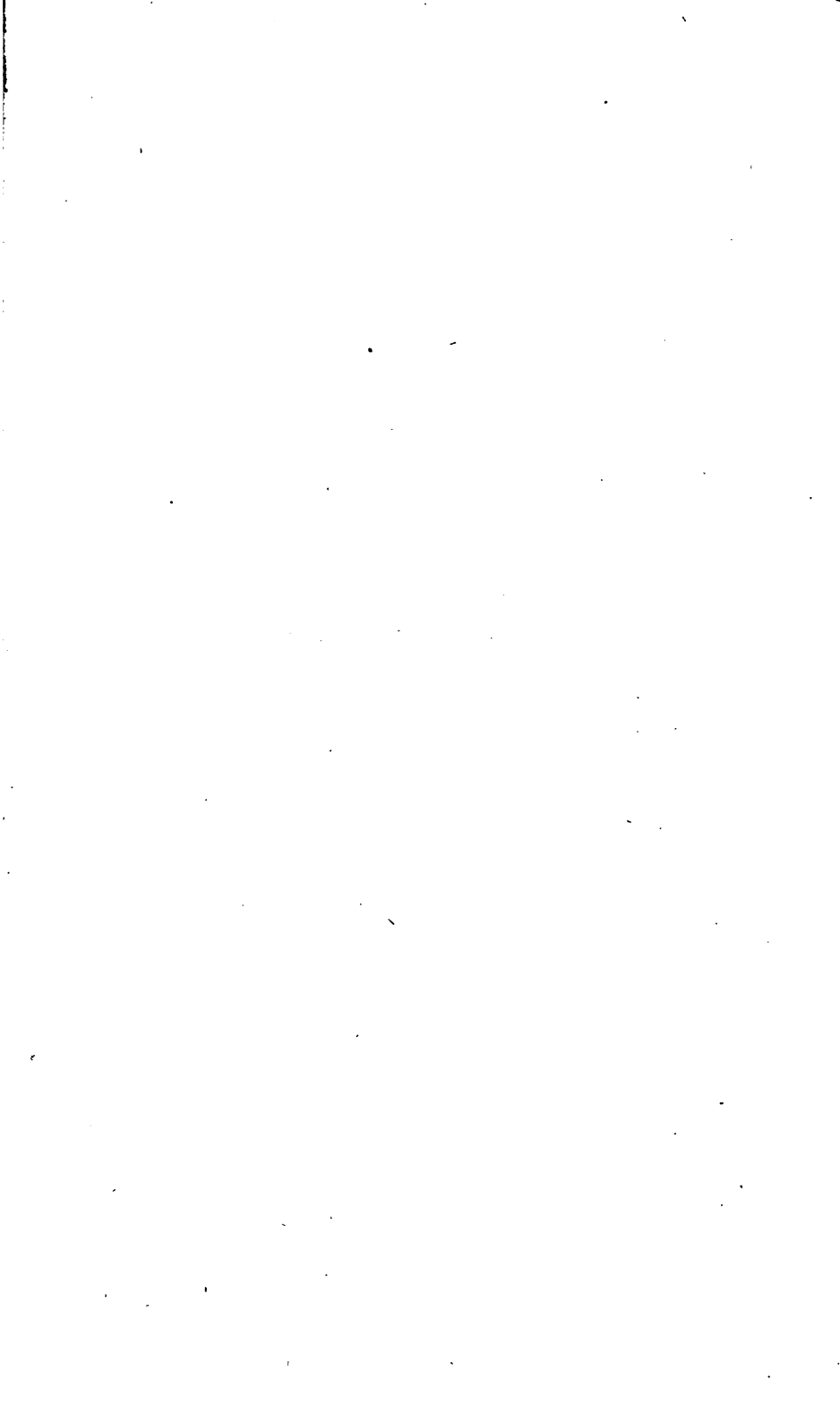
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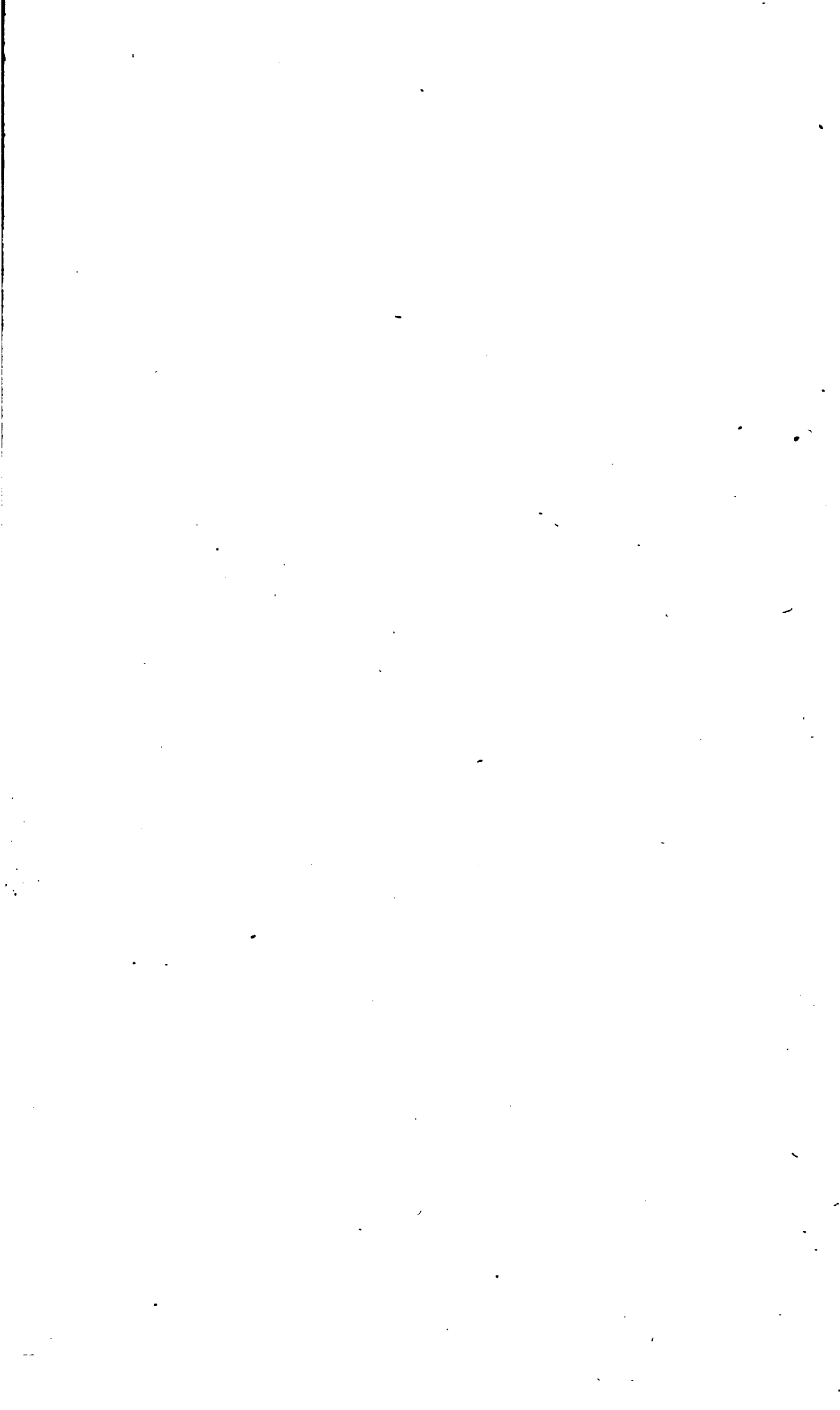
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1796









# HORÆ PAULINÆ,

OR,

THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURE  
HISTORY OF ST. PAUL EVINCED.

BY A

COMPARISON OF THE EPISTLES WHICH  
BEAR HIS NAME,

WITH THE

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES,

AND

WITH ONE ANOTHER.

By WILLIAM PALEY, M.A.

ARCHDEACON OF CARLISLE.

LONDON:

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1796.

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TO  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
JOHN LAW, D.D.  
LORD BISHOP OF KILLALLA AND ACHONRY,  
AS A TESTIMONY OF ESTEEM  
FOR HIS VIRTUES AND LEARNING,  
AND OF GRATITUDE  
FOR THE LONG AND FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIP,  
WITH WHICH  
THE AUTHOR HAS BEEN HONOURED  
BY HIM,  
THIS ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM THE EVIDENCE  
OF THE CHRISTIAN HISTORY,  
IS INSCRIBED  
BY HIS AFFECTIONATE  
AND MOST OBLIGED SERVANT,

W. PALEY.

12003

# THE

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THE  
T R U T H  
OF THE  
Scripture History of St. Paul  
E V I N C E D.

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CHAP. I.

EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

**T**HE volume of Christian scriptures contains thirteen letters purporting to be written by St. Paul; it contains also a book, which amongst other things, professes to deliver the history, or rather memoirs of the history, of this same person.

B

By



## 2 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

By assuming the genuineness of the letters, we may prove the substantial truth of the history ; or, by assuming the truth of the history, we may argue strongly in support of the genuineness of the letters. But I assume neither one nor the other. The reader is at liberty to suppose these writings to have been lately discovered in the library of the Escorial, and to come to our hands destitute of any extrinsic or collateral evidence whatever ; and the argument I am about to offer is calculated to shew, that a comparison of the different writings would, even under these circumstances, afford good reason to believe the persons and transactions to have been real, the letters authentic, and the narration in the main to be true.

Agreement or conformity between letters bearing the name of an ancient author, and a received history of that author's life, does not necessarily establish the credit of either : because,

1. The history may, like Middleton's Life of Cicero, or Jortin's Life of Erasmus, have been wholly, or in part, compiled  
from

from the letters; in which case it is manifest that the history adds nothing to the evidence already afforded by the letters; or,

2. The letters may have been fabricated out of the history: a species of imposture which is certainly practicable; and which, without any accession of proof or authority, would necessarily produce the appearance of consistency and agreement; or,

3. The history and letters may have been founded upon some authority common to both; as upon reports and traditions which prevailed in the age in which they were composed, or upon some ancient record now lost, which both writers consulted: in which case also, the letters, without being genuine, may exhibit marks of conformity with the history; and the history, without being true, may agree with the letters.

Agreement therefore, or conformity, is only to be relied upon so far as we can exclude these several suppositions. Now the point to be noticed is, that, in the three cases above enumerated, conformity must

#### 4 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

be the effect of *design*. Where the history is compiled from the letters, which is the first case, the design and composition of the work are in general so confessed, or made so evident by comparison, as to leave us in no danger of confounding the production with original history, or of mistaking it for an independent authority. The agreement, it is probable, will be close and uniform, and will easily be perceived to result from the intention of the author, and from the plan and conduct of his work.

—Where the letters are fabricated from the history, which is the second case, it is always for the purpose of imposing a forgery upon the public; and, in order to give colour and probability to the fraud, names, places, and circumstances, found in the history, may be studiously introduced into the letters, as well as a general consistency be endeavoured to be maintained. But here it is manifest, that whatever congruity appears, is the consequence of meditation, artifice, and design.—The third case is that wherein the history and the letters, without any direct privity or communication



tion with each other, derive their materials from the same source; and, by reason of their common original, furnish instances of accordance and correspondency. This is a situation in which we must allow it to be possible for ancient writings to be placed; and it is a situation in which it is more difficult to distinguish spurious from genuine writings, than in either of the cases described in the preceding suppositions; inasmuch as the congruities observable are so far accidental, as that they are not produced by the immediate transplanting of names and circumstances out of one writing into the other. But although, with respect to each other, the agreement in these writings be mediate and secondary, yet is it not properly or absolutely undesigned; because, with respect to the common original from which the information of the writers proceeds, it is studied and factitious. The case of which we treat must, as to the letters, be a case of forgery; and when the writer, who is personating another, sits down to his composition—whether he have the history with which we now compare

## 6 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

the letters, or some other record, before him; or whether he have only loose tradition and reports to go by—he must adapt his imposture, as well as he can, to what he finds in these accounts; and his adaptations will be the result of council, scheme, and industry: art must be employed; and vestiges will appear of management and design. Add to this, that, in most of the following examples, the circumstances in which the coincidence is remarked are of too particular and domestic a nature, to have floated down upon the stream of general tradition.

Of the three cases which we have stated, the difference between the first and the two others is, that in the first the design may be fair and honest, in the others it must be accompanied with the consciousness of fraud: but in all there is design. In examining, therefore, the agreement between ancient writings, the character of truth and originality is undesignedness: and this test applies to every supposition; for, whether we suppose the history to be true, but the letters spurious; or the letters to be genuine,  
but

but the history false; or, lastly, falsehood to belong to both—the history to be a fable, and the letters fictitious; the same inference will result—that either there will be no agreement between them, or the agreement will be the effect of design. Nor will it elude the principle of this rule, to suppose the same person to have been the author of all the letters, or even the author both of the letters and the history; for no less design is necessary to produce coincidence between different parts of a man's own writings, especially when they are made to take the different forms of a history and of original letters, than to adjust them to the circumstances found in any other writing.

With respect to those writings of the New Testament which are to be the subject of our present consideration, I think that, as to the authenticity of the epistles, this argument, where it is sufficiently sustained by instances, is nearly conclusive; for I cannot assign a supposition of forgery, in which coincidences of the kind we enquire after are likely to appear. As to the history,

## 8 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

it extends to these points :—It proves the general reality of the circumstances ; it proves the historian's knowledge of these circumstances. In the present instance it confirms his pretensions of having been a cotemporary, and in the latter part of his history a companion of St. Paul. In a word, it establishes the substantial truth of the narration ; and *substantial* truth is that which, in every historical enquiry, ought to be the first thing sought after and ascertained ; it must be the ground-work of every other observation.

The reader then will please to remember this word *undesignedness*, as denoting that upon which the construction and validity of our argument chiefly depend.

As to the proofs of undesignedness, I shall in this place say little ; for I had rather the reader's persuasion should arise from the instances themselves, and the separate remarks with which they may be accompanied, than from any previous formulary or description of argument. In a great plurality of examples, I trust he will be perfectly convinced that no design or  
contrivance

contrivance whatever has been exercised ; and if some of the coincidences alledged appear to be minute, circuitous, or oblique, let him reflect that this very indirectness and subtilty is that which gives force and propriety to the example. Broad, obvious, and explicit agreements prove little ; because it may be suggested that the insertion of such is the ordinary expedient of every forgery : and though they may occur, and probably will occur, in genuine writings, yet it cannot be proved that they are peculiar to these. Thus what St. Paul declares in chap. xi. of 1 Cor. concerning the institution of the eucharist—

“ For I have received of the Lord that  
 “ which I also delivered unto you, that  
 “ the Lord Jesus, the same night in which  
 “ he was betrayed, took bread ; and when  
 “ he had given thanks, he brake it, and  
 “ said, Take, eat ; this is my body, which  
 “ is broken for you ; this do in remem-  
 “ brance of me”—though it be in close  
 and verbal conformity with the account of  
 the same transaction preserved by St. Luke,  
 is yet a conformity of which no use can be  
 made

## 10 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

made in our argument ; for if it should be objected that this was a mere recital from the gospel, borrowed by the author of the epistle, for the purpose of setting off his composition by an appearance of agreement with the received account of the Lord's supper, I should not know how to repel the insinuation. In like manner, the description which St. Paul gives of himself, in his epistle to the Philippians (iii. 5)—  
“ Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock  
“ of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an  
“ Hebrew of the Hebrews ; as touching  
“ the law, a Pharisee ; concerning zeal,  
“ persecuting the church ; touching the  
“ righteousness which is in the law, blame-  
“ less”—is made up of particulars so plainly delivered concerning him, in the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistle to the Romans, and the Epistle to the Galatians, that I cannot deny but that it would be easy for an impostor, who was fabricating a letter in the name of St. Paul, to collect these articles into one view. This, therefore, is a conformity which we do not adduce. But when I read, in the Acts of the Apostles,

## EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT. II

files, that "when Paul came to Derbe and  
 "Lystra, behold a certain disciple was  
 "there, named Timotheus, the son of a  
 "certain woman *which was a Jewess*;"  
 and when, in an epistle addressed to Timotheus, I find him reminded of his "having  
 "known the holy scriptures *from a child*,"  
 which implies that he must, on one side or  
 both, have been brought up by Jewish parents; I conceive that I remark a coincidence which shews, by its very *obliquity*, that scheme was not employed in its formation. In like manner, if a coincidence depend upon a comparison of dates, or rather of circumstances from which the dates are gathered—the more intricate that comparison shall be; the more numerous the intermediate steps through which the conclusion is deduced; in a word, the more *circuitous* the investigation is, the better, because the agreement which finally results is thereby farther removed from the suspicion of contrivance, affectation, or design. And it should be remembered, concerning these coincidences, that it is one thing to be minute, and another to be precarious; one  
 2 thing

## 12 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

thing to be unobserved, and another to be obscure; one thing to be circuitous or oblique, and another to be forced, dubious, or fanciful. And this distinction ought always to be retained in our thoughts.

The very particularity of St. Paul's epistles; the perpetual recurrence of names of persons and places; the frequent allusions to the incidents of his private life, and the circumstances of his condition and history; and the connection and parallelism of these with the same circumstances in the Acts of the Apostles, so as to enable us, for the most part, to confront them one with another; as well as the relation which subsists between the circumstances, as mentioned or referred to in the different epistles—afford no inconsiderable proof of the genuineness of the writings, and the reality of the transactions. For as no advertency is sufficient to guard against slips and contradictions, when circumstances are multiplied, and when they are liable to be detected by cotemporary accounts equally circumstantial, an impostor, I should expect, would either have avoided particulars entirely, contenting himself with doctrinal



doctrinal discussions, moral precepts, and general reflections\*; or if, for the sake of imitating St. Paul's style, he should have thought it necessary to interperse his composition with names and circumstances, he would have placed them out of the reach of comparison with the history. And I am confirmed in this opinion by an inspection of two attempts to counterfeit St. Paul's epistles, which have come down to us; and the only attempts, of which we have any knowledge, that are at all deserving of re-

\* This, however, must not be misunderstood. A person writing to his friends, and upon a subject in which the transactions of his own life were concerned, would probably be led in the course of his letter, especially if it was a long one, to refer to passages found in his history. A person addressing an epistle to the public at large, or under the form of an epistle delivering a discourse upon some speculative argument, would not, it is probable, meet with an occasion of alluding to the circumstances of his life at all; he might, or he might not; the chance on either side is nearly equal. This is the situation of the catholic epistle. Although, therefore, the presence of these allusions and agreements be a valuable accession to the arguments by which the authenticity of a letter is maintained, yet the want of them certainly forms no positive objection.

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#### 14 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

gard. One of these is an epistle to the Laodiceans, extant in Latin, and preserved by Fabricius in his collection of apocryphal scriptures. The other purports to be an epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, in answer to an epistle from the Corinthians to him. This was translated by Scroderus from a copy in the Armenian language which had been sent to W. Whiston, and was afterwards, from a more perfect copy procured at Aleppo, published by his sons, as an appendix to their edition of Moses Chorenensis. No Greek copy exists of either: they are not only not supported by ancient testimony, but they are negatived and excluded; as they have never found admission into any catalogue of apostolical writings, acknowledged by, or known to, the early ages of Christianity. In the first of these I found, as I expected, a total *evitation* of circumstances. It is simply a collection of sentences from the canonical epistles, strung together with very little skill. The second, which is a more versute and specious forgery, is introduced with a list of names of persons who wrote to St. Paul

Paul from Corinth; and is preceded by an account sufficiently particular of the manner in which the epistle was sent from Corinth to St. Paul, and the answer returned. But they are names which no one ever heard of; and the account it is impossible to combine with any thing found in the Acts, or in the other epistles. It is not necessary for me to point out the internal marks of spuriousness and imposture which these compositions betray; but it was necessary to observe, that they do not afford those coincidences which we propose as proofs of authenticity in the epistles which we defend.

Having explained the general scheme and formation of the argument, I may be permitted to subjoin a brief account of the manner of conducting it.

I have disposed the several instances of agreement under separate numbers; as well to mark more sensibly the divisions of the subject, as for another purpose, viz. that the reader may thereby be reminded that the instances are independent of one another. I have advanced nothing which I did not think

## 16 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

think probable ; but the degree of probability, by which different instances are supported, is undoubtedly very different. If the reader, therefore, meets with a number which contains an instance that appears to him unsatisfactory, or founded in mistake, he will dismiss that number from the argument, but without prejudice to any other. He will have occasion also to observe, that the coincidences discoverable in some epistles are much fewer and weaker than what are supplied by others. But he will add to his observation this important circumstance—that whatever ascertains the original of one epistle, in some measure establishes the authority of the rest. For, whether these epistles be genuine or spurious, every thing about them indicates that they come from the same hand. The diction, which it is extremely difficult to imitate, preserves its resemblance and peculiarity throughout all the epistles. Numerous expressions and singularities of style, found in no other part of the New Testament, are repeated in different epistles ; and occur, in their respective places, without the smallest appearance of force

force or art. An involved argumentation, frequent obscurities, especially in the order and transition of thought, piety, vehemence, affection, bursts of rapture, and of unparalleled sublimity, are properties, all or most of them, discernible in every letter of the collection. But although these epistles bear strong marks of proceeding from the same hand, I think it is still more certain that they were originally separate publications. They form no continued story; they compose no regular correspondence; they comprise not the transactions of any particular period; they carry on no connection of argument; they depend not upon one another; except in one or two instances, they refer not to one another. I will farther undertake to say, that no study or care has been employed to produce or preserve an appearance of consistency amongst them. All which observations shew that they were not intended by the person, whoever he was, that wrote them, to come forth or be read together; that they appeared at first separately, and have been collected since.

## 18 EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT.

The proper purpose of the following work is, to bring together, from the Acts of the Apostles, and from the different epistles, such passages as furnish examples of undesigned coincidence; but I have so far enlarged upon this plan, as to take into it some circumstances found in the epistles, which contributed strength to the conclusion, though not strictly objects of comparison.

It appeared also a part of the same plan, to examine the difficulties which presented themselves in the course of our enquiry.

I do not know that the subject has been proposed or considered in this view before. Ludovicus Capellus, Bishop Pearson, Dr. Benson, and Dr. Lardner, have each given a continued history of St. Paul's life, made up from the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles joined together. But this, it is manifest, is a different undertaking from the present, and directed to a different purpose.

If what is here offered shall add one thread to that complication of probabilities  
by

## **EXPOSITION OF THE ARGUMENT. 19**

by which the Christian history is attested, the reader's attention will be repaid by the supreme importance of the subject; and my design will be fully answered.

## CHAP. II.

## THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.

## No. I.

**T**HE first passage I shall produce from this epistle, and upon which a good deal of observation will be founded, is the following :

“ But now I go unto Jerusalem, to minister unto the saints ; for it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.” Rom. xv. 25, 6.

In this quotation three distinct circumstances are stated—a contribution in Macedonia for the relief of the Christians of Jerusalem, a contribution in Achaia for the same purpose, and an intended journey of St. Paul to Jerusalem. These circumstances are stated as taking place at the same time, and that to be the time when the epistle was written. Now let us enquire whether we can find these circumstances elsewhere ;



elfewhere ; and whether, if we do find them, they meet together in respect of date. Turn to the Acts of the Apostles, chap. xx. ver. 2, 3, and you read the following account : “ When he had gone over those  
 “ parts (viz. Macedonia), and had given  
 “ them much exhortation, he came into  
 “ Greece, and there abode three months ;  
 “ and when the Jews laid wait for him, *as*  
 “ *he was about to sail into Syria*, he pur-  
 “ posed to return through Macedonia.” From this passage, compared with the account of St. Paul’s travels given before, and from the sequel of the chapter, it appears, that upon St. Paul’s *second* visit to the peninsula of Greece, his intention was, when he should leave the country, to proceed from Achaia directly by sea to Syria ; but that, to avoid the Jews, who were lying in wait to intercept him in his route, he so far changed his purpose as to go back through Macedonia, embark at Philippi, and pursue his voyage from thence towards Jerusalem. Here therefore is a journey to Jerusalem ; but not a syllable of any contribution. And as St. Paul had taken several journeys to

Jerusalem before, and one also immediately after his *first* visit into the peninsula of Greece (Acts xviii. 21.), it cannot from hence be collected in which of these visits the epistle was written, or, with certainty, that it was written in either. The silence of the historian, who professes to have been with St. Paul at the time (c. xx. v, 6.) concerning any contribution, might lead us to look out for some different journey, or might induce us perhaps to question the consistency of the two records, did not a very accidental reference, in another part of the same history, afford us sufficient ground to believe that this silence was omission. When St. Paul made his reply before Felix, to the accusations of Tertullus, he alledged, as was natural, that neither the errand which brought him to Jerusalem, nor his conduct whilst he remained there, merited the calumnies with which the Jews had aspersed him. “ Now after many  
 “ years (i. e. of absence) *I came to bring*  
 “ *alms to my nation and offerings*; whereupon  
 “ certain Jews from Asia found me puri-  
 “ fied in the temple, neither with multitude  
 I “ nor

“nor with tumult, who ought to have been  
 “here before thee, and object, if they had  
 “ought against me.” Acts xxiv. 17—19.  
 This mention of alms and offerings certainly  
 brings the narrative in the Acts nearer to  
 an accordancy with the epistle; yet no one,  
 I am persuaded, will suspect that this clause  
 was put into St. Paul’s defence, either to  
 supply the omission in the preceding narra-  
 tive, or with any view to such accordancy.

After all, nothing is yet said or hinted  
 concerning the *place* of the contribution; nothing concerning Macedonia and Achaia. Turn therefore to the first epistle to the Corinthians, chap. xvi. ver. 1—4, and you have St. Paul delivering the following directions: “Concerning the collection for  
 “the saints, as I have given orders to the  
 “churches of Galatia, even so do ye: upon  
 “the first day of the week let every one  
 “of you lay by him in store as God hath  
 “prospered him, that there be no gather-  
 “ings when I come. And when I come,  
 “whomsoever you shall approve by your  
 “letters, them will I send to bring your  
 “liberality unto Jerusalem; and if it be

“ meet that I go also, they shall go with me.” In this passage we find a contribution carrying on at Corinth, the capital of Achaia, for the Christians of Jerusalem ; we find also a hint given of the possibility of St. Paul going up to Jerusalem himself, after he had paid his visit into Achaia : but this is spoken of rather as a possibility than as any settled intention ; for his first thought was, “ Whomsoever you shall approve by your letters, them will I *send* to bring your liberality to Jerusalem :” and, in the sixth verse he adds, “ That ye may bring me on my journey *whithersoever* I go.” This epistle purports to be written after St. Paul had been at Corinth ; for it refers throughout to what he had done and said amongst them whilst he was there. The expression therefore, “ When I come,” must relate to a *second* visit ; against which visit the contribution spoken of was desired to be in readiness.

But though the contribution in Achaia be expressly mentioned, nothing is here said concerning any contribution in Macedonia. Turn therefore, in the third place,  
to

to the second Epistle to the Corinthians, chap. viii. ver. 1—4, and you will discover the particular which remains to be fought for : “ Moreover, brethren, we do you to  
 “ wit of the grace of God bestowed on the  
 “ *churches of Macedonia* ; how that, in a great  
 “ trial of affliction, the abundance of their  
 “ joy and their deep poverty abounded unto  
 “ the riches of their liberality ; for to their  
 “ power I bear record, yea, and beyond  
 “ their power, they were willing of them-  
 “ selves ; praying us, with much entreaty,  
 “ that we would receive the gift, and take  
 “ upon us the fellowship of the ministering  
 “ to the saints.” To which add chap. ix.  
 ver. 2 : “ I know the forwardness of your  
 “ mind, for which I boast of you to them  
 “ of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a  
 “ year ago.” In this epistle we find St.  
 Paul advanced as far as Macedonia, upon  
 that *second* visit to Corinth which he pro-  
 mised in his former epistle ; we find also,  
 in the passages now quoted from it, that a  
 contribution was going on in Macedonia at  
 the same time with, or soon however fol-  
 lowing, the contribution which was made  
 in

in Achaia; but for whom the contribution was made does not appear in this epistle at all: that information must be supplied from the first epistle.

Here therefore, at length, but fetched from three different writings, we have obtained the several circumstances we enquired after, and which the Epistle to the Romans brings together, viz. a contribution in Achaia for the Christians of Jerusalem; a contribution in Macedonia for the same; and an approaching journey of St. Paul to Jerusalem. We have these circumstances—each by some hint in the passage in which it is mentioned, or by the date of the writing in which the passage occurs—fixed to a particular time; and we have that time turning out, upon examination, to be in all the *same*; namely, towards the close of St. Paul's second visit to the peninsula of Greece. This is an instance of conformity beyond the possibility, I will venture to say, of random writing to produce. I also assert, that it is in the highest degree improbable that it should have been the effect of contrivance

trivance and design. The imputation of *design* amounts to this, that the forger of the Epistle to the Romans inserted in it the passage upon which our observations are founded, for the purpose of giving colour to his forgery by the appearance of conformity with other writings which were then extant. I reply, in the first place, that, if he did this to countenance his forgery, he did it for the purpose of an argument which would not strike one reader in ten thousand. Coincidences so circuitous as this answer not the ends of forgery; are seldom, I believe, attempted by it. In the second place I observe, that he must have had the Acts of the Apostles, and the two Epistles to the Corinthians, before him at the time. In the Acts of the Apostles (I mean that part of the Acts which relates to this period) he would have found the journey to Jerusalem; but nothing about the contribution. In the first Epistle to the Corinthians he would have found a contribution going on in Achaia for the Christians of Jerusalem, and a distant hint of the possibility of the journey; but nothing concerning

cerning a contribution in Macedonia. In the Second Epistle to the Corinthians he would have found a contribution in Macedonia accompanying that in Achaia ; but no intimation for whom either was intended, and not a word about the journey. It was only by a close and attentive collation of the three writings, that he could have picked out the circumstances which he has united in his epistle ; and by a still more nice examination, that he could have determined them to belong to the same period. In the third place I remark, what diminishes very much the suspicion of fraud, how aptly and connectedly the mention of the circumstances in question, viz. the journey to Jerusalem, and of the occasion of that journey, arises from the context.

“ Whensoever I take my journey into Spain,  
 “ I will come to you ; for I trust to see you  
 “ in my journey, and to be brought on my  
 “ way thitherward by you, if first I be  
 “ somewhat filled with your company.  
*“ But now I go unto Jerusalem, to minister*  
*“ unto the saints ; for it hath pleased them of*  
*“ Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain*  
*“ contribution*



“ *contribution for the poor saints which are at*  
 “ *Jerusalem.* It hath pleased them verily,  
 “ and their debtors they are; for if the  
 “ Gentiles have been made partakers of  
 “ their spiritual things, their duty is also  
 “ to minister unto them in carnal things.  
 “ When therefore I have performed this,  
 “ and have sealed them to this fruit, I will  
 “ come by you into Spain.” Is the passage  
 in *Italics* like a passage foisted in for an ex-  
 traneous purpose? Does it not arise from  
 what goes before, by a junction as easy as  
 any example of writing upon real business  
 can furnish? Could any thing be more na-  
 tural than that S. Paul, in writing to the  
 Romans, should speak of the time when he  
 hoped to visit them; should mention the  
 business which then detained him; and  
 that he purposed to set forwards upon  
 his journey to them, when that business  
 was completed?

No. II.

By means of the quotation which formed the subject of the preceding number, we collect, that the Epistle to the Romans was  
 written.

## 30 THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.

written at the conclusion of St. Paul's second visit to the peninsula of Greece: but this we collect, not from the epistle itself, nor from any thing *declared* concerning the time and place in any part of the epistle, but from a comparison of circumstances referred to in the epistle, with the order of events recorded in the Acts, and with references to the same circumstances, though for quite different purposes, in the two Epistles to the Corinthians. Now would the author of a forgery, who sought to gain credit to a spurious letter by congruities, depending upon the time and place in which the letter was supposed to be written, have left that time and place to be made out, in a manner so obscure and indirect as this is? if therefore coincidences of circumstances can be pointed out in this epistle, depending upon its date, or the place where it was written, whilst that date and place are only ascertained by other circumstances, such coincidences may fairly be stated as *undesigned*. Under this head I adduce

Chap. xvi. 21-23. "Timotheus, my  
"work-

“ workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and  
 “ Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. I Ter-  
 “ tius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in  
 “ the Lord. Gaius mine host, and of the  
 “ whole church, saluteth you; and Quartus,  
 “ a brother.” With this passage I compare  
 Acts xx. 4. “ And there accompanied  
 “ him into Asia, Sopater of Berea; and, of  
 “ the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secun-  
 “ dus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus;  
 “ and, of Asia, Tychicus, and Trophimus.”  
 The Epistle to the Romans, we have seen, was  
 written just before St. Paul’s departure from  
 Greece, after his second visit to that penin-  
 sula; the persons mentioned in the quotation  
 from the Acts are those who accompanied  
 him in that very departure. Of seven whose  
 names are joined in the salutation of the  
 church of Rome, three, viz. Sosipater,  
 Gaius, and Timothy, are proved, by this  
 passage in the Acts, to have been with St.  
 Paul at the time. And this is perhaps as  
 much coincidence as could be expected from  
 reality, though less, I am apt to think, than  
 would have been produced by design. Four  
 are mentioned in the Acts who are not joined  
 in

in the salutation ; and it is in the nature of the case probable that there should be many attending St. Paul in Greece who knew nothing of the converts at Rome, not were known by them. In like manner several are joined in the salutation who are not mentioned in the passage referred to in the Acts. This also was to be expected. The occasion of mentioning them in the Acts was their proceeding with St. Paul upon his journey: But we may be sure that there were many eminent Christians with St. Paul in Greece, besides those who accompanied him into Asia\*.

But

\* Of these Jason is one, whose presence upon this occasion is very naturally accounted for. Jason was an inhabitant of Thessalonica in Macedonia, and entertained St. Paul in his house upon his first visit to that country. Acts xvii. 7.—St. Paul, upon this his second visit, passed through Macedonia on this way to Greece, and, from the situation of Thessalonica, most likely thro' that city. It appears, from various instances in the Acts, to have been the practice of many converts to attend St. Paul from place to place. It is therefore highly probable, I mean that it is highly consistent with the account in the history, that Jason, according to that account a zealous disciple, the inhabitant of a city at no great distance from Greece, and through which, as it should

But if any one shall still contend that a forger of the epistle, with the Acts of the Apostles before him, and having settled his scheme of writing a letter as from St. Paul upon his second visit into Greece, would easily think of the expedient of putting in the names of those persons who appeared to be with St. Paul at the time, as an obvious recommendation of the imposture; I then repeat my observations; first, that he would have made the catalogue more complete; and secondly, that with this contrivance in his thoughts, it was certainly his business, in order to avail himself of the artifice, to have stated in the body of the epistle that St. Paul was in Greece when he wrote it, and that he was there upon his second

should seem, St. Paul had lately passed, should have accompanied St. Paul into Greece, and have been with him there at this time. Lucius is another name in the epistle. A very slight alteration would convert *Λουκιος* into *Λουκας*, Lucius into Luke, which would produce an additional coincidence: for, if Luke was the author of the history, he was with St. Paul at this time; inasmuch as, describing the voyage which took place soon after the writing of this epistle, the historian uses the first person—"We sailed away from Philippi. Acts, xx. 6.

D

visit.

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visit. Neither of which he has done, either directly, or even so as to be discoverable by any circumstance found in the narrative delivered in the Acts.

Under the same head, viz. of coincidences depending upon date, I cite from the epistle the following salutation: "Greet Priscilla and  
" Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus, who  
" have for my life laid down their own necks;  
" unto whom not only I give thanks, but  
" also all the churches of the Gentiles." Chap. xvi. 3.—It appears, from the Acts of the Apostles, that Priscilla and Aquila had originally been inhabitants of Rome; for we read, Acts xviii. 2, that "Paul found a cer-  
" tain Jew, named Aquila, lately come from  
" Italy with his wife Priscilla, because that  
" Claudius had commanded all Jews to de-  
" part from *Rome*." They were connected therefore with the place to which the salutations are sent. That is one coincidence; another is the following: St. Paul became acquainted with these persons at Corinth during his first visit into Greece. They accompanied him upon his return into Asia; were settled for some time at Ephesus, Acts xviii. 19—26;  
and

and appear to have been with St. Paul when he wrote from that place his first Epistle to the Corinthians, 1 Cor. xvi. 19. Not long after the writing of which epistle St. Paul went from Ephesus into Macedonia, and "after he had gone over those parts," proceeded from thence upon his second visit into Greece; during which visit, or rather at the conclusion of it, the Epistle to the Romans, as hath been shewn, was written. We have therefore the time of St. Paul's residence at Ephesus after he had written to the Corinthians, the time taken up by his progress through Macedonia (which is indefinite, and was probably considerable), and his three months abode in Greece; we have the sum of these three periods allowed for Aquila and Priscilla going back to Rome, so as to be there when the epistle before us was written. Now what this quotation leads us to observe is, the danger of scattering names and circumstances in writings like the present, how implicated they often are with dates and places, and that nothing but truth can preserve consistency. Had the notes of time in the Epistle to the Romans fixed the writing

of it to any date prior to St. Paul's first residence at Corinth, the salutation of Aquila and Priscilla would have contradicted the history, because it would have been prior to his acquaintance with these persons. If the notes of time had fixed it to any period during *that* residence at Corinth, during his journey to Jerusalem when he first returned out of Greece, during his stay at Antioch whither he went down from Jerusalem, or during his second progress through the Lesser Asia upon which he proceeded from Antioch, an equal contradiction would have been incurred; because from Acts xviii. 2—18, 19—26, it appears that during all this time Aquila and Priscilla were either along with St. Paul, or were abiding at Ephesus. Lastly, had the notes of time in this epistle, which we have seen to be perfectly incidental, compared with the notes of time in the first Epistle to the Corinthians, which are equally incidental, fixed this epistle to be either cotemporary with that, or prior to it, a similar contradiction would have ensued; because, first, when the Epistle to the Corinthians was written, Aquila and Priscilla were  
along



along with St. Paul, as they joined in the salutation of that church, 1 Cor. xvi. 19 ; and because, secondly, the history does not allow us to suppose, that between the time of their becoming acquainted with St. Paul, and the time of St. Paul's writing to the Corinthians, Aquila, and Priscilla could have gone to Rome, so as to have been saluted in an epistle to that city ; and then come back to St. Paul at Ephesus, so as to be joined with him in saluting the church of Corinth. As it is, all things are consistent. The Epistle to the Romans is posterior even to the second Epistle to the Corinthians ; because it speaks of a contribution in Achaia being completed, which the second Epistle to the Corinthians chap. viii. is only soliciting. It is sufficiently therefore posterior to the first Epistle to the Corinthians, to allow time in the interval for Aquila and Priscilla's return from Ephesus to Rome.

Before we dismiss these two persons, we may take notice of the terms of commendation in which St. Paul describes them, and of the agreement of that encomium with the history. " My helpers in Christ Jesus,

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“ who have for my life laid down their  
“ necks; unto whom not only I give thanks,  
“ but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”

In the eighteenth chapter of the Acts, we are informed that Aquila and Priscilla were Jews; that St. Paul first met with them at Corinth; that for some time he abode in the same house with them; that St. Paul's contention at Corinth was with the unbelieving Jews, who at first “ opposed and  
“ blasphemed, and afterwards with one accord raised an insurrection against him;” that Aquila and Priscilla adhered, we may conclude, to St. Paul throughout this whole contest; for, when he left the city, they went with him, Acts xiii. 18. Under these circumstances, it is highly probable that they should be involved in the dangers and persecutions which St. Paul underwent from the Jews, being themselves Jews; and, by adhering to St. Paul in this dispute, deserters, as they would be accounted, of the Jewish cause. Farther, as they, though Jews, were assisting to St. Paul in preaching to the Gentiles at Corinth, they had taken a decided part in the great controversy of that day,

the admission of the Gentiles to a parity of religious situation with the Jews. For this conduct alone, if there was no other reason, they may seem to have been entitled to "thanks from the churches of the Gentiles."

They were Jews taking part with Gentiles. Yet is all this so in directly intimated, or rather so much of it left to inference in the account given in the Acts, that I do not think it probable that a forger either could or would have drawn his representation from thence ; and still less probable do I think it, that without having seen the Acts, he could, by mere accident, and without truth for his guide, have delivered a representation so conformable to the circumstances there recorded.

The two congruities last adduced depended upon the time, the two following regard the place, of the Epistle.

1. Chap. xvi. 23. "Erastus, the chamberlain of the city, saluteth you"—of what city? We have seen, that is, we have inferred from circumstances found in the epistle, compared with circumstances found in the Acts of the Apostles, and in the two Epistles

to the Corinthians, that our epistle was written during St. Paul's second visit to the peninsula of Greece. Again, as St. Paul, in his epistle to the church of Corinth, 1 Cor. xvi. 3, speaks of a collection going on in that city, and of his desire that it might be ready against he came thither; and as in this epistle he speaks of that collection being ready, it follows that the epistle was written either whilst he was at Corinth, or after he had been there. Thirdly, since St. Paul speaks in this epistle of his journey to Jerusalem, as about instantly to take place; and as we learn, Acts xx. 3, that his design and attempt was to sail upon that journey immediately from Greece, properly so called, *i. e.* as distinguished from Macedonia; it is probable that he was in this country when he wrote the epistle, in which he speaks of himself as upon the eve of setting out. If in Greece, he was most likely at Corinth; for the two Epistles to the Corinthians shew that the principal end of his coming into Greece was to visit that city, where he had founded a church. Certainly we know no place in Greece in which his  
 presence

presence was so probable : at least, the placing of him at Corinth satisfies every circumstance. Now that Erastus was an inhabitant of Corinth, or had some connection with Corinth, is rendered a fair subject of presumption, by that which is accidentally said of him in the second Epistle to Timothy, chap. iii. v. 20, "Erastus abode at *Corinth*." St. Paul complains of his solitude, and is telling Timothy what was become of his companions: "Erastus abode at Corinth; but Trophimus have I left at Miletum, sick." Erastus was one of those who had attended St. Paul in his travels, Acts xix. 22; and when those travels had, upon some occasion, brought our apostle and his train to Corinth, Erastus staid there, for no reason so probable as that it was his home. I allow that this coincidence is not so precise as some others, yet I think it too clear to be produced by accident; for, of the many places which this same epistle has assigned to different persons, and the innumerable others which it might have mentioned, how came it to fix upon Corinth for Erastus? And, as far as it is a coincidence,

it

it is certainly undesigned on the part of the author of the Epistle to the Romans : because he has not told us of what city Erastus was the chamberlain ; or, which is the same thing, from what city the epistle was written, the setting forth of which was absolutely necessary to the display of the coincidence, if any such display had been thought of : nor could the author of the Epistle to Timothy leave Erastus at Corinth, from any thing he might have read in the Epistle to the Romans, because Corinth is no where in that Epistle mentioned either by name or description.

2 Chap. xvi. 1—3. “I commend unto you  
 “ Phœbe, our sister, which is a servant of  
 “ the church which is at Cenchrea, that ye  
 “ receive her in the Lord, as becometh  
 “ saints, and that ye assist her in whatso-  
 “ ever business she hath need of you ; for  
 “ she hath been a succourer of many, and  
 “ of myself also.” Cenchrea adjoined to  
 Corinth ; St. Paul therefore, at the time of  
 writing the letter, was in the neighbourhood  
 of the woman whom he thus recommends.  
 But, farther, that St. Paul had before this  
 been

been at Cenchrea itself, appears from the eighteenth chapter of the Acts ; and appears by a circumstance as incidental, and as unlike design, as any that can be imagined. “ Paul after this tarried there (viz. at Corinth) yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila, having shorn his head *in Cenchrea*, for he had a vow.” xviii. 18. The shaving of the head denoted the expiration of the Nazaritic vow. The historian therefore, by the mention of this circumstance, virtually tells us that St. Paul’s vow was expired before he set forward upon his voyage, having deferred probably his departure until he should be released from the restrictions under which his vow laid him. Shall we say that the author of the Acts of the Apostles feigned this anecdote of St. Paul at Cenchrea, because he had read in the Epistle to the Romans that “ Phœbe, a servant of the church of Cenchrea, had been a succourer of many, and of him also ?” or shall we say that the author of the Epistle to the Romans, out of his own imagination, created

Phœbe

Phœbe "*a servant of the church at Cenchrea,*" because he read in the Acts of the Apostles that Paul had "*shorn his head*" in that place?

## No. III.

Chap. i. ver. 13. "Now I would not have  
 " you ignorant, brethren, that *oftentimes I*  
 " *purposed to come unto you*, but was let  
 " hitherto, that I might have some fruit  
 " among you also, even as among other  
 " Gentiles." Again, xv. 23, 24, "But now  
 " having no more place in these parts, and  
 " having a great desire these many years  
 " (*πολλα*, oftentimes) to come unto you,  
 " whensoever I take my journey into Spain  
 " I will come to you; for I trust to see you  
 " in my journey, and to be brought on my  
 " way thitherward by you: but now I go  
 " up unto Jerusalem, to minister to the  
 " faints. When therefore I have perform-  
 " ed this, and have sealed to them this fruit,  
 " I will come by you into Spain."

With these passages compare Acts xix.  
 v. 21. "After these things were ended (viz.  
 " at Ephesus), Paul purposed in the spirit,  
 " when he had passed through Macedonia  
 " and



“ and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem ; saying,  
 “ after I have been there, I must also see  
 “ Rome.”

Let it be observed that our epistle purports to have been written at the conclusion of St. Paul's second journey into Greece; that the quotation from the Acts contains words said to have been spoken by St. Paul at Ephesus, some time before he set forwards upon that journey. Now I contend that it is impossible that two independent fictions should have attributed to St. Paul the same purpose, especially a purpose so specific and particular as this, which was not merely a general design of visiting Rome, but a design of visiting Rome after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, and after he had performed a voyage from these countries to Jerusalem. The conformity between the history and the epistle is perfect. In the first quotation from the epistle, we find that a design of visiting Rome had long dwelt in the apostle's mind : in the quotation from the Acts we find that design expressed a considerable time before the epistle was written. In the  
 history

history we find that the plan which St. Paul had formed, was to pass through Macedonia and Achaia ; after that, to go to Jerusalem ; and, when he had finished his visit there, to sail for Rome. When the epistle was written, he had executed so much of his plan, as to have passed through Macedonia and Achaia ; and was preparing to pursue the remainder of it, by speedily setting out towards Jerusalem : and in this point of his travels he tells his friends at Rome, that, when he had completed the business which carried him to Jerusalem, he would come to them. Secondly, I say that the very inspection of the passages will satisfy us that they were not made up from one another.

“ Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you ; for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you : but now I go up to Jerusalem, to minister to the saints. When, therefore, I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.”—  
This from the epistle.

“ Paul

“ Paul purposed in the spirit, when he  
 “ had passed through Macedonia and Achaia,  
 “ to go to Jerusalem ; saying, After I have  
 “ been there, I must also see Rome.”—This  
 from the Acts.

If the passage in the epistle was taken from that in the Acts, why was *Spain* put in ; If the passage in the Acts was taken from that in the epistle, why was *Spain* left out ? If the two passages were unknown to each other, nothing can account for their conformity but truth. Whether we suppose the history and the epistle to be alike fictitious, or the history to be true but the letter spurious, or the letter to be genuine but the history a fable, the meeting with this circumstance in both, if neither borrowed it from the other, is, upon all these suppositions, equally inexplicable.

#### No. IV.

The following quotation I offer for the purpose of pointing out a geographical coincidence, of so much importance, that Dr. Lardner considered it as a confirmation of the whole history of St. Paul's travels.

Chap.

Chap. xv. ver. 19. "So that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."

I do not think that these words necessarily import that St. Paul had penetrated into Illyricum, or preached the gospel in that province; but rather that he had come to the confines of Illyricum (*μεχρι τε Ιλλυρικου*), and that these confines were the external boundary of his travels. St. Paul considers Jerusalem as the centre, and is here viewing the circumference to which his travels had extended. The form of expression in the original conveys this idea—*απο 'Ιερουσαλημ και κυκλω μεχρι τε Ιλλυρικου*. Illyricum was the part of this circle which he mentions in an Epistle to the Romans, because it lay in a direction from Jerusalem towards that city, and pointed out to the Roman readers the nearest place to them, to which his travels from Jerusalem had brought him. The name of Illyricum no where occurs in the Acts of the Apostles; no suspicion, therefore, can be conceived that the mention of it was borrowed from thence. Yet I think it appears, from these same Acts, that St. Paul,

before

before the time when he wrote his Epistle to the Romans, had reached the confines of Illyricum; or, however, that he might have done so, in perfect consistency with the account there delivered. Illyricum adjoins upon Macedonia; measuring from Jerusalem towards Rome, it lies close behind it. If, therefore, St. Paul traversed the whole country of Macedonia, the route would necessarily bring him to the confines of Illyricum, and these confines would be described as the extremity of his journey. Now the account of St. Paul's second visit to the peninsula of Greece, is contained in these words: "He departed for to go into Macedonia; *and when he had gone over these parts*, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece." Acts xx. 2. This account allows, or rather leads us to suppose, that St. Paul, in going over Macedonia (*διελθὼν τὰ μέρη ἐκεῖνα*), had passed so far to the west, as to come into those parts of the country which were contiguous to Illyricum, if he did not enter into Illyricum itself. The history, therefore, and the epistle so far agree, and the agreement is much strengthened by a

E                      coinci-

coincidence of *time*. At the time the epistle was written, St. Paul might say, in conformity with the history, that he had "come into Illyricum:" much before that time, he could not have said so; for, upon his former journey to Macedonia, his route is laid down from the time of his landing at Philippi to his sailing from Corinth. We trace him from Philippi to Amphipolis and Apollonia; from thence to Thessalonica; from Thessalonica to Berea; from Berea to Athens; and from Athens to Corinth: which track confines him to the eastern side of the peninsula, and therefore keeps him all the while at a considerable distance from Illyricum. Upon his second visit to Macedonia, the history, we have seen, leaves him at liberty. It must have been, therefore, upon that second visit, if at all, that he approached Illyricum; and this visit, we know, almost immediately preceded the writing of the epistle. It was natural that the apostle should refer to a journey which was fresh in his thoughts.

No. V.

Chap. xv. ver. 30. "Now I beseech you,  
 " brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
 " and for the love of the Spirit, that ye  
 " strive together with me in your prayers  
 " to God for me, that I may be delivered  
 " from them that do not believe in Judæa."

—With this compare Acts xx. 22, 23 :

" And now, behold, I go bound in the  
 " Spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the  
 " things that shall befall me there, save that  
 " the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city,  
 " saying that bonds and afflictions abide  
 " me."

Let it be remarked that it is the same journey to Jerusalem which is spoken of in these two passages; that the epistle was written immediately before St. Paul set forwards upon this journey from Achaia; that the words in the Acts were uttered by him when he had proceeded in that journey as far as Miletus, in Lesser Asia. This being remembered, I observe that the two passages, without any resemblance between them that could induce us to suspect that they

were borrowed from one another, represent the state of St. Paul's mind, with respect to the event of the journey, in terms of substantial agreement. They both express his sense of danger in the approaching visit to Jerusalem; they both express the doubt which dwelt upon his thoughts concerning what might there befall him. When, in his epistle, he entreats the Roman Christians, "for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, to strive together with him in their prayers to God for him, that he might be delivered from them which do not believe in Judæa," he sufficiently confesses his fears. In the Acts of the Apostles we see in him the same apprehensions, and the same uncertainty: "I go bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem, *not knowing* the things that shall befall me there." The only difference is, that in the history his thoughts are more inclined to despondency than in the epistle. In the epistle, he retains his hope "that he should come unto them with joy by the will of God;" in the history, his mind yields to the reflection, "that the Holy Ghost



“ Ghost witnesseth in every city that bonds  
 “ and afflictions awaited him.” Now that  
 his fears should be greater, and his hopes  
 less, in this stage of his journey than when  
 he wrote his epistle, that is, when he first  
 set out upon it, is no other alteration than  
 might well be expected; since those pro-  
 phetic intimations to which he refers, when  
 he says, “ the Holy Ghost witnesseth in  
 “ every city,” had probably been received  
 by him in the course of his journey, and  
 were probably similar to what we know he  
 received in the remaining part of it at Tyre  
 (xxi. 4), and afterwards from Agabus at  
 Cæsarea (xxi. 11).

## No. VI.

There is another strong remark arising  
 from the same passage in the epistle; to  
 make which understood, it will be necessary  
 to state the passage over again, and some-  
 what more at length.

“ I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord  
 “ Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of  
 “ the Spirit, that ye strive together with  
 “ me in your prayers to God for me, that

“ I may be delivered from them that do not  
 “ believe in Judæa—that I may come unto  
 “ you with joy by the will of God, and  
 “ may with you be refreshed.”

I desire the reader to call to mind *that* part of St. Paul's history which took place after his arrival at Jerusalem, and which employs the seven last chapters of the Acts ; and I build upon it this observation—that supposing the Epistle to the Romans to have been a forgery, and the author of the forgery to have had the Acts of the Apostles before him, and to have there seen that St. Paul, in fact, “ was *not* delivered from the “ unbelieving Jews,” but, on the contrary, that he was taken into custody at Jerusalem, and brought to Rome a prisoner—it is next to impossible that he should have made St. Paul express expectations so contrary to what he saw had been the event; and utter prayers, with apparent hopes of success, which he must have known were frustrated in the issue.

This single consideration convinces me, that no concert or confederacy whatever subsisted between the epistle and the Acts  
 of

of the Apostles; and that whatever coincidences have been or can be pointed out between them, are unsophisticated, and are the result of truth and reality.

It also convinces me that the epistle was written not only in St. Paul's life time, but before he arrived at Jerusalem; for the important events relating to him which took place after his arrival at that city, must have been known to the Christian community soon after they happened: they form the most public part of his history. But had they been known to the author of the epistle—in other words, had they then taken place—the passage which we have quoted from the epistle would not have been found there.

#### No. VII.

I now proceed to state the conformity which exists between the argument of this epistle and the history of its reputed author. It is enough for this purpose to observe, that the object of the epistle, that is, of the argumentative part of it, was to place the Gentile convert upon a parity of situation with the Jewish, in respect of his

religious condition, and his rank in the divine favour. The epistle supports this point by a variety of arguments; such as, “that no man of either description was justified by the works of the law—for this plain reason, that no man had performed them; that it became therefore necessary to appoint another medium or condition of justification, in which new medium the Jewish peculiarity was merged and lost; that Abraham’s own justification was anterior to the law, and independent of it; that the Jewish converts were to consider the law as now dead, and themselves as married to another; that what the law in truth could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God had done by sending his Son: that God had rejected the unbelieving Jews, and had substituted in their place a society of believers in Christ, collected indifferently from Jews and Gentiles.” Soon after the writing of this epistle, St. Paul, agreeably to the intention intimated in the epistle itself, took his journey to Jerusalem. The day after he arrived there, he was introduced to the church.

What

What passed at this interview is thus related, Acts xxi. 19: "When he had saluted them, " he declared particularly what things God " had wrought among the Gentiles by " his ministry: and, when they heard it, " they glorified the Lord; and said unto " him, Thou seest, brother, how many " thousands of Jews there are which believe; " and they are all zealous of the law; and " they *are informed of thee*, that thou teachest " all the Jews which are among the Gen- " tiles to forsake Moses, saying, that they " ought not to circumcise their children, " neither to walk after the customs." St. Paul disclaimed the charge; but there must have been something to have led to it. Now it is only to suppose that St. Paul openly professed the principles which the epistle contains; that, in the course of his ministry, he had uttered the sentiments which he is here made to write; and the matter is accounted for. Concerning the accusation which public rumour had brought against him to Jerusalem, I will not say that it was just; but I will say that, if he was the author of the epistle before us, and if  
his

his preaching was consistent with his writing, it was extremely natural; for, though it be not a necessary, surely it is an easy inference, that if the Gentile convert, who did not observe the law of Moses, held as advantageous a situation in his religious interests as the Jewish convert who did, there could be no strong reason for observing that law at all. The remonstrance therefore of the church of Jerusalem, and the report which occasioned it, were founded in no very violent misconstruction of the apostle's doctrine. His reception at Jerusalem was exactly what I should have expected the author of this epistle to have met with. I am entitled therefore to argue that a separate narrative of effects experienced by St. Paul, similar to what a person might be expected to experience, who held the doctrines advanced in this epistle, forms a proof that he did hold these doctrines; and that the epistle bearing his name, in which such doctrines are laid down, actually proceeded from him.

## No. VIII.

This number is supplemental to the former. I propose to point out in it two particulars in the conduct of the argument, perfectly adapted to the historical circumstances under which the epistle was written ; which yet are free from all appearance of contrivance, and which it would not, I think, have entered into the mind of a sophist to contrive.

1. The Epistle to the Galatians relates to the same general question as the epistle to the Romans. St. Paul had founded the church of Galatia ; at Rome he had never been. Observe now a difference in his manner of treating of the same subject, corresponding with this difference in his situation. In the Epistle to the Galatians he puts the point in a great measure upon *authority*: “ I marvel that ye  
 “ are so soon removed from him that called  
 “ you into the grace of Christ, unto another  
 “ gospel.” Gal. i. 6. “ I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached  
 “ of me, is not after man ; for I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it but  
 “ by

“ by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (ch. i. ver. 11, 12). “ I am afraid lest I have bestowed  
 “ upon you labour in vain” (iv. 11, 12).  
 “ I desire to be present with you now, for  
 “ I stand in doubt of you” (iv. 20). “ Behold I,  
 “ Paul, say unto you, that, if ye be circum-  
 “ cised, Christ shall profit you nothing” (ch.  
 v. 2). “ This persuasion cometh not of him  
 “ that called you” (ch. v. 8). This is the style  
 in which he accosts the Galatians. In the  
 epistle to the converts of Rome, where his  
 authority was not established, nor his person  
 known, he puts the same point entirely upon  
*argument*. The perusal of the epistle will  
 prove this to the satisfaction of every reader ;  
 and, as the observation relates to the whole  
 contents of the epistle, I forbear adducing  
 separate extracts. I repeat therefore that we  
 have pointed out a distinction in the two  
 epistles, suited to the relation in which the  
 author stood to his different correspondents.

Another adaptation, and somewhat of the  
 same kind, is the following :

2. The Jews we know were very nume-  
 rous at Rome, and probably formed a princi-  
 pal part amongst the new converts ; so much  
 so,



so, that the Christians seem to have been known at Rome rather as a denomination of Jews, than as anything else. In an epistle consequently to the Roman believers, the point to be endeavoured after by St. Paul was, to reconcile the *Jewish* converts to the opinion, that the Gentiles were admitted by God to a parity of religious situation with themselves, and that, without their being bound by the law of Moses. The Gentile converts would probably accede to this opinion very readily. In this epistle, therefore, though directed to the Roman church in general, it is in truth a Jew writing to Jews. Accordingly you will take notice, that as often as his argument leads him to say any thing derogatory from the Jewish institution, he constantly follows it by a softening clause. Having (ii. 28, 29) pronounced, not much perhaps to the satisfaction of the native Jews, "that he is not a Jew  
 " which is one outwardly, neither that circumcision which is outward in the flesh;" he adds immediately "what advantage then  
 " hath the Jew, or what profit is there in circumcision? *much every way.*" Having in the  
 third,

third chapter, ver. 28, brought his argument to this formal conclusion, "that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the law," he presently subjoins, ver. 31, "do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; *yea, we establish the law.*" In the seventh chapter, when in the sixth verse he had advanced the bold assertion, that "now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held;" in the very next verse he comes in with this healing question, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid; nay, I had not known sin but by the law." Having in the following words insinuated, or rather more than insinuated, the inefficacy of the Jewish law, viii. 3, "for what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh;" after a digression indeed, but that sort of a digression which he could never resist, a rapturous contemplation of his Christian hope, and which occupies the latter part of this chapter; we find him in the next, as if sensible that he

had said something which would give offence, returning to his Jewish brethren in terms of the warmest affection and respect. “ I say  
 “ the truth in Christ Jesus ; I lie not ; my  
 “ conscience also bearing me witness, in the  
 “ Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness  
 “ and continual sorrow in my heart ; for I  
 “ could wish that myself were accursed from  
 “ Christ, *for my brethren, my kinsmen ac-*  
 “ *cording to the flesh, who are Israelites, to*  
 “ *whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory,*  
 “ *and the covenants, and the giving of the law,*  
 “ *and the service of God, and the promises ;*  
 “ *whose are the fathers ; and of whom, as con-*  
 “ *cerning the flesh, Christ came.*” When, in  
 the thirty-first and thirty-second verses of  
 this ninth chapter, he represented to the  
 Jews the error of even the best of their na-  
 tion, by telling them that “ Israel, which  
 “ followed after the law of righteousness,  
 “ had not attained to the law of righteouf-  
 “ ness, because they sought it not by faith,  
 “ but as it were by the works of the law,  
 “ for they stumbled at that stumbling-stone,”  
 he takes care to annex to this declaration  
 these

these conciliating expressions: "Brethren, "*my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel*" is, that they might be saved; for I bear "them record that they *have a zeal of God,*" "but not according to knowledge." Lastly, having, ch. x. ver. 20, 21, by the application of a passage in Isaiah insinuated the most ungrateful of all propositions to a Jewish ear, the rejection of the Jewish nation, as God's peculiar people; he hastens, as it were, to qualify the intelligence of their fall by this interesting expostulation: "I say, then, hath God cast away "his people (i. e. wholly and entirely)? "*God forbid*; for I also am an Israelite, of "the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. *God hath not cast away his people* "*which he foreknew*:" and follows this thought, throughout the whole of the eleventh chapter, in a series of reflections calculated to soothe the Jewish converts, as well as to procure from their Gentile brethren respect to the Jewish institution. Now all this is perfectly natural. In a real St. Paul writing to real converts, it is what  
anxiety

anxiety to bring them over to his persuasion would naturally produce ; but there is an earnestness and a personality, if I may so call it, in the manner which a cold forgery, I apprehend, would neither have conceived nor supported.

## CHAP. III.

## THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS.

## No. I.

**B**EFORE we proceed to compare this epistle with the history, or with any other epistle, we will employ one number in stating certain remarks applicable to our argument, which arises from a perusal of the epistle itself.

By an expression in the first verse of the seventh chapter, “now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me,” it appears, that this letter to the Corinthians was written by St. Paul in answer to one which he had received from them; and that the seventh, and some of the following chapters, are taken up in resolving certain doubts, and regulating certain points of order, concerning which the Corinthians had in their letter consulted him. This alone is a circumstance considerably in favour of the authenticity

ticity of the epistle : for it must have been a far-fetched contrivance in a forgery, first to have feigned the receipt of a letter from the church of Corinth, which letter does not appear ; and then to have drawn up a fictitious answer to it, relative to a great variety of doubts and enquiries, purely œconomical and domestic ; and which, though likely enough to have occurred to an infant society, in a situation and under an institution so novel as that of a Christian church then was, it must have very much exercised the author's invention, and could have answered no imaginable purpose of forgery, to introduce the mention of at all. Particulars of the kind we refer to, are such as the following : the rule of duty and prudence relative to entering into marriage, as applicable to virgins, to widows ; the case of husbands married to unconverted wives, of wives having unconverted husbands ; that case where the unconverted party chooses to separate, where he chooses to continue the union ; the effect which their conversion produced upon their prior state, of circumcision, of slavery ; the eating of things offered to idols, as it was

in itself, as others were affected by it; the joining in idolatrous sacrifices; the decorum to be observed in their religious assemblies, the order of speaking, the silence of women, the covering or uncovering of the head, as it became men, as it became women. These subjects, with their several sub-divisions, are so particular, minute, and numerous, that, though they be exactly agreeable to the circumstances of the persons to whom the letter was written, nothing, I believe, but the existence and reality of those circumstances, could have suggested to the writer's thoughts.

But this is not the only nor the principal observation upon the correspondence between the church of Corinth and their apostle, which I wish to point out. It appears, I think, in this correspondence, that although the Corinthians had written to St. Paul, requesting his answer and his directions in the several points above enumerated, yet that they had not said one syllable about the enormities and disorders which had crept in amongst them, and in the blame of which they all shared;  
but



but that St. Paul's information concerning the irregularities then prevailing at Corinth, had come round to him from other quarters. The quarrels and disputes excited by their contentious adherence to their different teachers, and by their placing of them in competition with one another, were not mentioned in their *letter*, but communicated to St. Paul by more private intelligence: "It hath been declared unto me, my  
 " brethren, *by them which are of the house*  
 " *of Chloe*, that there are contentions among  
 " you. Now this I say, that every one of  
 " you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos,  
 " and I of Cephas, and I of Christ" (i. 11,  
 12). The incestuous marriage "of a man  
 with his father's wife," which St. Paul reprehends with so much severity in the fifth chapter of our epistle, and which was not the crime of an individual only, but a crime in which the whole church, by tolerating and conniving at it, had rendered themselves partakers, did not come to St. Paul's knowledge by the *letter*, but by a rumour which had reached his ears: "*It is reported commonly*  
 " that there is fornication among you, and

“such fornication as is not so much as  
 “named among the Gentiles, that one  
 “should have his father’s wife; and ye are  
 “puffed up, and have not rather mourned  
 “that he that hath done this deed might  
 “be taken away from among you” (v. 1,  
 2). Their going to law before the judica-  
 ture of the country, rather than arbitrate  
 and adjust their disputes among themselves,  
 which St. Paul animadverts upon with his  
 usual plainness, was not intimated to him in  
 the *letter*, because he tells them his opinion  
 of this conduct, before he comes to the con-  
 tents of the letter. Their litigiousness is  
 censured by St. Paul in the sixth chapter of  
 his epistle, and it is only at the beginning of  
 the seventh chapter that he proceeds upon  
 the articles which he found in their letter;  
 and he proceeds upon them with this pre-  
 face: “Now concerning the things whereof  
 ye wrote unto me” (vii. 1); which intro-  
 duction he would not have used, if he had  
 been already discussing any of the subjects  
 concerning which they had written. Their  
 irregularities in celebrating the Lord’s sup-  
 per, and the utter perversion of the institu-  
 tion

tion which ensued, were not in the *letter*, as is evident from the terms in which St. Paul mentions the notice he had received of it: "Now in this that I declare unto you, I praise you not, that ye came together not for the better, but for the worse; for first of all, when ye come together in the church, *I bear* that there be divisions among you, and *I partly believe it.*" Now that the Corinthians should, in their own letter, exhibit the fair side of their conduct to the Apostle, and conceal from him the faults of their behaviour, was extremely natural, and extremely probable: but it was a distinction which would not, I think, have easily occurred to the author of a forgery; and much less likely is it, that it should have entered into his thoughts to make the distinction *appear* in the way in which it does appear, viz. not by the original letter, not by any express observation upon it in the answer, but distantly by marks perceivable in the manner, or in the order, in which St. Paul takes notice of their faults.

## No. II.

Our epistle purports to have been written after St. Paul had already been at Corinth : “ I, brethren, *when I came to you*, came not “ with excellency of speech or of wisdom” (ii. 1): and in many other places to the same effect. It purports also to have been written upon the eve of another visit to that church : “ I will come to you shortly, if the “ Lord will” (iv. 19); and again, “ I will “ come to you when I shall pass through Macedonia” (xvi. 5). Now the history relates that St. Paul did in fact visit Corinth *twice*; once as recorded at length in the eighteenth, and a second time as mentioned briefly in the twentieth chapter of the Acts. The same history also informs us, Acts xx. 1, that it was from Ephesus St. Paul proceeded upon his second journey into Greece. Therefore, as the epistle purports to have been written a short time preceding that journey; and as St. Paul, the history tells us, had resided more than two years at Ephesus before he set out upon it, it follows that it must have been from Ephesus, to be consistent

sistent with the history, that the epistle was written ; and every note of *place* in the epistle agrees with this supposition. “ If, “ after the manner of men, I have fought “ with beasts at *Ephesus*, what advantageth “ it me, if the dead rise not ? (xv. 32). I allow that the apostle might say this, wherever he was ; but it was more natural and more to the purpose to say it, if he was at *Ephesus* at the time, and in the midst of those conflicts to which the expression relates. “ The churches of Asia salute you” (xvi. 19). Asia, throughout the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles of St. Paul, does not mean the whole of Asia Minor or Anatolia, nor even the whole of the proconsular Asia, but a district in the anterior part of that country, called Lydian Asia, divided from the rest, much as Portugal is from Spain, and of which district *Ephesus* was the capital.—“ Aquila and Priscilla salute you” (xvi. 19). Aquila and Priscilla were at *Ephesus* during the period within which this epistle was written (Acts xviii. 18. 26).—“ I will tarry at *Ephesus* until Pentecost” (xvi. 8). This, I apprehend, is in terms almost

most asserting that he was at Ephesus at the time of writing the epistle.—“A great and effectual door is opened unto me” (xvi. 9). How well this declaration corresponded with the state of things at Ephesus, and the progress of the Gospel in these parts, we learn from the reflection with which the historian concludes the account of certain transactions which passed there: “So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed” (Acts xix. 20); as well as from the complaint of Demetrius, “that not only at Ephesus, but also throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people” (xix. 26).—“And there are many adversaries,” says the epistle, xvi. 9. Look into the history of this period, “when divers were hardened and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples.” The conformity therefore upon this head of comparison, is circumstantial and perfect. If any one think that this is a conformity so obvious, that any forger of tolerable caution and sagacity, would have taken care to preserve it, I must desire such a one to read the  
the

the epistle for himself; and, when he has done so, to declare, whether he has discovered one mark of art or design; whether the notes of *time* and *place* appear to him to be inserted with any reference to each other, with any view of their being compared with each other, or for the purpose of establishing a visible agreement with the history, in respect of them.

## No. III.

Chap. iv. ver. 17—19. “For this cause  
“I have sent unto you Timotheus, who is  
“my beloved son and faithful in the Lord,  
“who shall bring you into remembrance  
“of my ways which be in Christ, as I  
“teach every where in every church. Now  
“some are puffed up, as though I would  
“not come unto you; but I will come  
“unto you shortly, if the Lord will.”

With this I compare Acts xix. 21, 22:  
“After these things were ended, Paul pur-  
“posed in the spirit, when he had passed  
“through Macedonia and *Achaia*, to go to  
“Jerusalem; saying, after I have been there,  
“I must

“ I must also see Rome : *so* he sent unto  
“ Macedonia two of them that ministered  
“ unto him, *Timotheus* and *Eraustus*.”

Though it be not said, it appears I think with sufficient certainty, I mean from the history, independently of the epistle, that Timothy was sent upon this occasion into *Achaia*, of which Corinth was the capital city, as well as into Macedonia ; for the sending of Timothy and Eraustus is, in the passage where it is mentioned, plainly connected with St. Paul's own journey ; *he sent them before him*. As he therefore purposed to go into *Achaia* himself, it is highly probable that they were to go thither also. Nevertheless they are said only to have been sent into Macedonia, because Macedonia was in truth the country to which they went immediately from Ephesus ; being directed, as we suppose, to proceed afterwards from thence into *Achaia*. If this be so, the narrative agrees with the epistle ; and the agreement is attended with very little appearance of design. One thing at least concerning it is certain : that if this passage of St. Paul's history had been taken from his letter, it  
would



would have sent Timothy to Corinth by name, or expressly however into Achaia.

But there is another circumstance in these two passages much less obvious, in which an agreement holds, without any room for suspicion that it was produced by design. We have observed that the sending of Timothy into the peninsula of Greece was connected in the narrative with St. Paul's own journey thither; it is stated as the effect of the same resolution. Paul purposed to go into Macedonia; "so he sent two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus." Now in the epistle also you remark that, when the apostle mentions his having sent Timothy unto them, in the very next sentence he speaks of his own visit: "for this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, &c. Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you; but I will come to you shortly, if God will." Timothy's journey we see is mentioned in the history, and in the epistle, in close connection with St. Paul's own. Here is the same order of thought and intention; yet conveyed

conveyed under such diversity of circumstance and expression, and the mention of them in the epistle so allied to the occasion which introduces it, viz. the insinuation of his adversaries that he would come to Corinth no more, that I am persuaded no attentive reader will believe, that these passages were written in concert with one another, or will doubt but that the agreement is unfought and uncontrived.

But, in the Acts, Erastus accompanied Timothy in this journey, of whom no mention is made in the epistle. From what has been said in our observations upon the Epistle to the Romans, it appears probable that Erastus was a Corinthian. If so, though he accompanied Timothy to Corinth, he was only returning home, and Timothy was the messenger charged with St. Paul's orders. At any rate, this discrepancy shews that the passages were not taken from one another.

#### No. IV.

Chap. xvi. ver. 10, 11. "Now, if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you  
 " without fear; for he worketh the work of  
 " the

“ the Lord, as I also do : let no man there-  
“ fore despise him, but conduct him forth  
“ in peace, that he may come unto me, for  
“ I look for him with the brethren.”

From the passage considered in the preceding number, it appears that Timothy was sent to Corinth, either with the epistle, or before it : “ for this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus.” From the passage now quoted, we infer that Timothy was not sent *with* the epistle ; for had he been the bearer of the letter, or accompanied it, would St. Paul in that letter have said, “ *if* Timothy come ?” Nor is the sequel consistent with the supposition of his carrying the letter ; for if Timothy was with the Apostle when he wrote the letter, could he say, as he does, “ I look for him with the brethren ?” I conclude therefore that Timothy had left St. Paul to proceed upon his journey before the letter was written. Farther, the passage before us seems to imply, that Timothy was not expected by St. Paul to arrive at Corinth, till after they had received the letter. He gives them directions in the letter how to treat him when he should arrive ; “ if he come,”  
act

act towards him so and so. Lastly, the whole form of expression is most naturally applicable to the supposition of Timothy's coming to Corinth, not directly from St. Paul, but from some other quarter; and that his instructions had been, when he should reach Corinth, to return. Now, how stands this matter in the history? Turn to the nineteenth chapter and twenty-first verse of the Acts, and you will find that Timothy did not, when sent from Ephesus, where he left St. Paul, and where the present epistle was written, proceed by a straight course to Corinth, but that he went round through Macedonia. This clears up every thing; for, although Timothy was sent forth upon his journey before the letter was written, yet he might not reach Corinth till after the letter arrived there; and he would come to Corinth, when he did come, not directly from St. Paul at Ephesus, but from some part of Macedonia. Here therefore is a circumstantial and critical agreement, and unquestionably without design; for neither of the two passages in the epistle mentions Timothy's journey into Macedonia at all, though

though nothing but a circuit of that kind can explain and reconcile the expressions which the writer uses.

### No. V.

Chap. I. ver. 12. "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ."

Also iii. 6, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

This expression, "I have planted, Apollos watered," imports two things; first, that Paul had been at Corinth before Apollos; secondly, that Apollos had been at Corinth after Paul, but before the writing of this epistle. This implied account of the several events, and of the order in which they took place, corresponds exactly with the history. St. Paul, after his first visit into Greece, returned from Corinth into Syria by the way of Ephesus; and, dropping his companions Aquila and Priscilla at Ephesus, he proceeded forwards to Jerusalem: from Jerusalem he descended to Antioch; and from thence made a progress through some

of the upper or northern provinces of the Lesser Asia (Acts xviii. 19. 23): during which progress, and consequently in the interval between St. Paul's first and second visit to Corinth, and consequently also before the writing of this epistle, which was at Ephesus two years at least after the apostle's return from his progress, we hear of Apollos, and we hear of him at Corinth. Whilst St. Paul was engaged, as hath been said, in Phrygia and Galatia, Apollos came down to Ephesus; and being, in St. Paul's absence, instructed by Aquila and Priscilla, and having obtained letters of recommendation from the church at Ephesus, he passed over to Achaia; and when he was there, we read that he "helped them much which had believed through grace, for he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly." Acts xviii. 27, 28. To have brought Apollos into Achaia, of which Corinth was the capital city, as well as the principal Christian Church; and to have shewn that he preached the gospel in that country, would have been sufficient for our purpose. But the history happens also to mention Corinth by name, as the place  
in

in which Apollos, after his arrival in Achaia, fixed his residence; for, proceeding with the account of St. Paul's travels, it tells us, that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the upper coasts, came down to Ephesus (xix. 1). What is said there of Apollos, in the epistle, coincides exactly, and especially in the point of chronology, with what is delivered concerning him in the history. The only question now is, whether the allusions were made with a regard to this coincidence. Now, the occasions and purposes for which the name of Apollos is introduced in the Acts and in the epistles, are so independent and so remote, that it is impossible to discover the smallest reference from one to the other. Apollos is mentioned in the Acts, in immediate connection with the history of Aquila and Priscilla, and for the very singular circumstance of his "knowing only the baptism of John." In the epistle, where none of these circumstances are taken notice of, his name first occurs, for the purpose of reproving the contentious spirit of the Corinthians; and it occurs only in conjunction

G 2

with

with that of some others : “ Every one of  
 “ you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos,  
 “ and I of Cephas, and I of Christ.” The  
 second passage in which Apollos appears,  
 “ I have planted, Apollos watered,” fixes,  
 as we have observed, the order of time  
 amongst three distinct events ; but it fixes  
 this, I will venture to pronounce, without  
 the writer perceiving that he was doing any  
 such thing. The sentence fixes this order  
 in exact conformity with the history ; but it  
 is itself introduced solely for the sake of the  
 reflection which follows : “ Neither is he  
 “ that planteth any thing, neither he that wa-  
 “ tereth, but God that giveth the increase.”

#### No. VI.

Chap. iv. ver. 11, 12. “ Even unto this  
 “ present hour we both hunger and thirst,  
 “ and are naked, and are buffeted, and have  
 “ no certain dwelling-place ; and labour,  
 “ working with our own hands.”

We are expressly told, in the history, that  
 at Corinth St. Paul laboured with his own  
 hands : “ He found Aquila and Priscilla ; and,  
 “ because he was of the same craft, he abode  
 “ with



“ with them, and wrought; for by their occupation they were tent-makers.” But, in the text before us, he is made to say, that “he laboured *even unto the present hour*,” that is, to the time of writing the epistle at Ephesus. Now, in the narration of St. Paul’s transactions at Ephesus, delivered in the nineteenth chapter of the Acts, nothing is said of his working with his own hands; but in the twentieth chapter we read, that upon his return from Greece, he sent for the elders of the church of Ephesus, to meet him at Miletus; and in the discourse which he there addressed to them, amidst some other reflections which he calls to their remembrance, we find the following: “ I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel; yea, you yourselves also know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.” The reader will not forget to remark, that though St. Paul be now at Miletus, it is to the elders of the church of Ephesus he is speaking, when he says, “ Ye yourselves know that these hands have ministered to my necessities;” and that the whole dis-

course relates to his conduct, during his last preceding residence at Ephesus. That manual labour therefore, which he had exercised at Corinth, he continued at Ephesus; and not only so, but continued it during that particular residence at Ephesus, near the conclusion of which this epistle was written; so that he might with the strictest truth, say, at the time of writing the epistle, “*Even unto this present hour we labour,*” “*working with our own hands.*” The correspondency is sufficient then, as to the undesignedness of it. It is manifest to my judgment, that if the history, in this article, had been taken from the epistle, this circumstance, if it appeared at all, would have appeared in its *place*, that is, in the direct account of St. Paul’s transactions at Ephesus. The correspondency would not have been effected, as it is, by a kind of reflected stroke, that is, by a reference in a subsequent speech, to what in the narrative was omitted. Nor is it likely, on the other hand, that a circumstance which is not extant in the history of St. Paul at Ephesus, should have been made the subject of a factitious allusion,

in

in an epistle purporting to be written by him from that place: not to mention that the allusion itself, especially as to time, is too oblique and general to answer any purpose of forgery whatever.

## No. VII.

Chap. ix. ver. 20. "And unto the Jews  
 "I became as a Jew, that I might gain the  
 "Jews; to them that are under the law,  
 "as under the law."

We have the disposition here described, exemplified in two instances which the history records; one, Acts xvi. ver. 3: "Him  
 "(Timothy) would Paul have to go forth  
 "with him, and took and circumcised him,  
 "*because of the Jews in those quarters*; for  
 "they knew all that his father was a Greek." This was before the writing of the epistle. The other, Acts xxi. ver. 23, 26, and after the writing of the epistle: "Do this that we  
 "say to thee; we have four men which have  
 "a vow on them: them take, and purify  
 "thyself with them, that they may shave  
 "their heads; and all may know that those  
 "things, whereof they were informed con-

“cerning thee, are nothing; but that thou  
“thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest  
“the law.—Then Paul took the men, and  
“the next day, *purifying himself with them,*  
“*entered into the temple.*” Nor does this  
concurrence between the character and the  
instances look like the result of contrivance.  
St. Paul, in the epistle, describes, or is made  
to describe, his own accommodating conduct  
towards Jews and towards Gentiles, towards  
the weak and over-scrupulous, towards men  
indeed of every variety of character; to  
“them that are without law as without law,  
“being not without law to God, but under  
“the law to Christ, that I might gain them  
“that are without law; to the weak became  
“I as weak, that I might gain the weak; I  
“am made all things to all men, that I might  
“gain some.” This is the sequel of the text  
which stands at the head of the present num-  
ber. Taking therefore the whole passage  
together, the apostle’s condescension to the  
Jews is mentioned only as a part of his  
general disposition towards all. It is not  
probable, that this character should have  
been made up from the instances in the  
Acts,

Acts, which relate solely to his dealings with the Jews. It is not probable that a sophist should take his hint from those instances, and then extend it so much beyond them : and it is still more incredible, that the two instances in the Acts, circumstantially related, and interwoven with the history, should have been fabricated in order to suit the character, which St. Paul gives of himself in the epistle.

#### No. VIII.

Chap. i. 14—17. “ I thank God that I  
“ baptized ‘none of you but Crispus and  
“ Gaius, lest any should say that I baptized  
“ in my own name ; and I baptized also  
“ the household of Stephanas : besides, I  
“ know not whether I baptized any other ;  
“ for Christ sent me not to baptize, but to  
“ preach the gospel.”

It may be expected that those whom the apostle baptized with his own hands, were converts distinguished from the rest by some circumstance, either of eminence, or of connection with him. Accordingly, of the three  
names

names here mentioned, Crispus, we find from Acts xviii. ver. 8, was a "chief ruler" of the Jewish synagogue at Corinth, who "believed in the Lord, with all his house." Gaius, it appears from Romans xvi. 23, was St. Paul's host at Corinth, and the host, he tells us, "of the whole church." The household of Stephanas, we read in the sixteenth chapter of this epistle, "were the first fruits of Achaia." Here therefore is the propriety we expected: and it is a proof of reality not to be contemned; for their names appearing in the several places in which they occur, with a mark of distinction belonging to each, could hardly be the effect of chance, without any truth to direct it: and, on the other hand, to suppose that they were picked out from these passages, and brought together in the text before us, in order to display a conformity of names, is both improbable in itself, and is rendered more so, by the purpose for which they are introduced. They come in to assist St. Paul's exculpation of himself, against the possible charge, of having assumed the character

\*

rafter of the founder of a separate religion, and with no other visible, or, as I think, imaginable design\*.

No.

\* Chap. i. ver. 1. " Paul called to be an apostle of  
 " Jesus Christ, through the will of God, and Sosthenes,  
 " our brother, unto the church of God, which is at  
 " Corinth."—The only account we have of any person  
 who bore the name of Sosthenes, is found in the eighteenth chapter of the Acts. When the Jews at Corinth had brought Paul before Gallio, and Gallio had dismissed their complaint as unworthy of his interference, and had driven them from the judgement seat; " then all the  
 " Greeks," says the historian, " took Sosthenes, the chief  
 " ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgement seat." The Sosthenes here spoken of was a Corinthian; and if he was a Christian, and with St. Paul when he wrote this epistle, was likely enough to be joined with him in the salutation of the Corinthian church. But here occurs a difficulty. If Sosthenes was a Christian at the time of this uproar, why should the *Greeks* beat him? The assault upon the Christians was made by the *Jews*. It was the *Jews* who had brought Paul before the magistrate. If it had been the *Jews* also who had beaten Sosthenes, I should not have doubted but that he had been a favourer of St. Paul, and the same person who is joined with him in the epistle. Let us see therefore whether there be not some error in our present text. The Alexandrian manuscript gives *παρὶς* alone, without *οὐ* *Ἕλληνας*, and is followed in this reading by the Coptic version, by the Arabic version, published by Erpenius,

## No. IX.

Chap. xvi. ver. 10, 11. "Now, if Timotheus come, let no man despise him."—  
Why *despise* him? This charge is not given

Erpenius, by the Vulgate, and by Bede's Latin version. Three Greek manuscripts again, as well as Chrysostom, give *οι Ιουδαιοι*, in the place of *οι Ελληνες*. A great plurality of manuscripts authorize the reading which is retained in our copies. In this variety it appears to me extremely probable that the historian originally wrote *παντες* alone, and that *οι Ελληνες* and *οι Ιουδαιοι* have been respectively added as explanatory of what the word *παντες* was supposed to mean. The sentence, without the addition of either name, would run very perspicuously thus, "Και απηλασει αυτους απο του βηματος" *επιλαβειμνοι δε παντες* "Σωσθηνι τον αρχισυναγωγον, ετυπτοι εμπροσθεν του βηματος;" "and he drove them away from the judgement seat; "and they all," viz. the crowd of Jews whom the judge had bid begone, "took Sosthenes, and beat him before the judgment seat." It is certain that, as the whole body of the people were Greeks, the application of *all* to them is unusual and hard. If I was describing an insurrection at Paris, I might say *all* the Jews, *all* the Protestants, or *all* the English acted so and so; but I should scarcely say *all* the French, when the whole mass of the community were of that description. As what is here offered is founded upon a various reading, and that in opposition to the greater part of the manuscripts that are extant, I have not given it a place in the text.

con-



concerning any other messenger whom St. Paul sent ; and, in the different epistles, many such messengers are mentioned. Turn to 1 Timothy, chap. iv. ver. 12, and you will find that Timothy was a *young man*, younger probably than those who were usually employed in the Christian mission ; and that St. Paul, apprehending lest he should, on that account, be exposed to contempt, urges upon him the caution which is there inserted, “ Let no man despise the youth.”

#### No. X.

Chap. xvi. ver. 1. “ Now, concerning  
 “ the collection for the saints, as I have  
 “ given order to the churches of Galatia,  
 “ even so do ye.”

The churches of Galatia and Phrygia were the last churches which St. Paul had visited before the writing of this epistle. He was now at Ephesus, and he came thither immediately from visiting these churches :  
 “ He went over all the country of Ga-  
 “ latia and Phrygia, in order, strength-  
 “ ening all the disciples. And it came to  
 “ pass that Paul having passed through the  
 “ upper

“upper coasts” (viz. the above-named countries, called the upper coasts, as being the northern part of Asia Minor), “came to “Ephesus.” Acts xviii. ver. 23; xix. 1. These therefore, probably, were the last churches at which he had left directions for their public conduct during his absence. Although two years intervened between his journey to Ephesus, and his writing this epistle, yet it does not appear that during that time he visited any other church. That he had not been silent when he was in Galatia, upon this subject of contribution for the poor, is farther made out from a hint which he lets fall in his epistle to that church: “Only they (viz. the other apostles) would “that we should remember the poor, the “same also which I was forward to do.”

#### No. XI.

Chap. iv. ver. 18. “Now, some are “puffed up, as though I would not come “unto you.”

Why should they suppose that he would not come? Turn to the first chapter of the second Epistle to the Corinthians, and you will

will find that he had already *disappointed* them: "I was minded to come unto you  
" before, that you might have a second  
" benefit; and to pass by you into Mace-  
" donia, and to come again out of Mace-  
" donia unto you, and of you to be brought  
" on my way toward Judea. When I,  
" therefore, was thus minded, did I use  
" lightness? Or the things that I purpose,  
" do I purpose according to the flesh, that  
" with me there should be yea, yea, and  
" nay, nay? But, as God is true, our word  
" toward you was not yea and nay." It  
appears from this quotation, that he had not  
only intended, but that he had promised  
them a visit before; for, otherwise, why  
should he apologize for the change of his  
purpose, or express so much anxiety, lest this  
change should be imputed to any culpable  
fickleness in his temper; and lest he should  
thereby seem to them, as one whose word  
was not, in any sort, to be depended upon?  
Besides which, the terms made use of plainly  
refer to a promise, "*Our word toward you*  
" was not yea and nay." St. Paul therefore  
had signified an intention which he had not  
been

been able to execute; and this seeming breach of his word, and the delay of his visit, had, with some who were evil affected towards him, given birth to a suggestion that he would come no more to Corinth.

## No. XII.

Chap. v. ver. 7, 8. “ For even Christ, “ our passover, is sacrificed for us; therefore “ let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, “ neither with the leaven of malice and “ wickedness, but with the unleavened “ bread of sincerity and truth.”

Dr. Benson tells us, that from this passage, compared with chapter xvi. ver. 8, it has been conjectured that this epistle was written about the time of the Jewish passover; and to me the conjecture appears to be very well founded. The passage to which Dr. Benson refers us is this: “ I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.” With this passage he ought to have joined another in the same context: “ And it may be that I “ will abide, yea and winter with you :” for, from the two passages laid together, it follows that the epistle was written before Pentecost,

Pentecost, yet after winter; which necessarily determines the date to the part of the year, within which the passover falls. It was written before Pentecost, because he says, "I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost." It was written after winter, because he tells them, "It may be that I may abide, yea, and winter with you." The winter which the apostle purposed to pass at Corinth, was undoubtedly the winter next ensuing to the date of the epistle; yet it was a winter subsequent to the ensuing Pentecost, because he did not intend to set forwards upon his journey till after that feast. The words, "let us keep the feast, "not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with "the unleavened bread of sincerity and "truth," look very like words suggested by the season; at least they have, upon that supposition, a force and significancy which do not belong to them upon any other; and it is not a little remarkable, that the hints casually dropped in the epistle, concerning particular parts of the year, should coincide with this supposition.

## CHAP. IV.

THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE  
CORINTHIANS.

## No. I.

**I** WILL not say that it is impossible, having seen the first Epistle to the Corinthians, to construct a second with ostensible allusions to the first; or that it is impossible that both should be fabricated, so as to carry on an order and continuation of story, by successive references to the same events. But I say, that this, in either case, must be the effect of craft and design. Whereas, whoever examines the allusions to the former epistle, which he finds in this, whilst he will acknowledge them to be such, as would rise spontaneously to the hand of the writer, from the very subject of the correspondence, and the situation of the corresponding parties, supposing these to be real, will see no particle of reason to suspect, either that the clauses containing these allusions

sions were *insertions* for the purpose, or that the several transactions of the Corinthian church were feigned, in order to form a train of narrative, or to support the appearance of connection between the two epistles.

1. In the first epistle, St. Paul announces his intention of passing through Macedonia, in his way to Corinth: "I will come to you "when I shall pass through Macedonia." In the second epistle, we find him arrived in Macedonia, and about to pursue his journey to Corinth. But observe the manner in which this is made to appear: "I know "the forwardness of your mind, for which "I boast of you to them of Macedonia, "that Achaia was ready a year ago, and "your zeal had provoked very many: "yet have I sent the brethren, lest our "boasting of you should be in vain in this "behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready, "lest haply, if they of Macedonia come "with me, and find you unprepared, we, "that we say not you, be ashamed in this "same confident boasting" (chap. ix. 2, 3, 4). St. Paul's being in Macedonia at the time of writing the epistle, is, in this passage, in-

ferred only from his saying, that he had boasted to the Macedonians of the alacrity of his Achaian converts; and the fear which he expresses, lest, if any of the Macedonian Christians should come with him unto Achaia, they should find his boasting unwarranted by the event. The business of the contribution is the sole cause of mentioning Macedonia at all. Will it be insinuated that this passage was framed merely to state that St. Paul was now in Macedonia; and, by that statement, to produce an apparent agreement with the purpose of visiting Macedonia, notified in the first epistle? Or will it be thought probable, that, if a sophist had meant to place St. Paul in Macedonia, for the sake of giving countenance to his forgery, he would have done it in so oblique a manner as through the medium of the contribution? The same thing may be observed of another text in the epistle, in which the name of Macedonia occurs: “ Furthermore, when I came  
“ to Troas to preach the gospel, and a door  
“ was opened unto me of the Lord, I had  
“ no rest in my spirit, because I found not  
“ Titus,



“ Titus, my brother ; but taking my leave  
 “ of them, I went from thence into Mace-  
 “ donia.” I mean, that it may be observed  
 of this passage also, that there is a reason for  
 mentioning Macedonia, entirely distinct from  
 the purpose of shewing St. Paul to be *there*.  
 Indeed, if the passage before us shew that  
 point at all, it shews it so obscurely, that  
 Grotius, though he did not doubt that Paul  
 was now in Macedonia, refers this text to  
 a different journey. Is this the hand of a  
 forger, meditating to establish a false con-  
 formity ? The text, however, in which it  
 is most strongly implied that St. Paul wrote  
 the present epistle from Macedonia, is found  
 in the fourth, fifth, and sixth verses of the  
 seventh chapter : “ I am filled with comfort,  
 “ I am exceeding joyful in all our tribula-  
 “ tion ; for, when we were come into Mace-  
 “ donia, our flesh had no rest ; without were  
 “ fightings, within were fears ; neverthe-  
 “ less God, that comforteth those that are  
 “ cast down, comforted us by the coming  
 “ of Titus.” Yet even here, I think, no  
 one will contend, that St. Paul’s coming to  
 Macedonia, or being in Macedonia, was the

principal thing intended to be told; or that the telling of it indeed, was any part of the intention with which the text was written; or that the mention even of the name of Macedonia was not purely incidental, in the description of those tumultuous sorrows with which the writer's mind had been lately agitated, and from which he was relieved by the coming of Titus. The five first verses of the eighth chapter, which commend the liberality of the Macedonian churches, do not, in my opinion, by themselves, prove St. Paul to have been in Macedonia at the time of writing the epistle.

2. In the first epistle, St. Paul denounces a severe censure against an incestuous marriage, which had taken place amongst the Corinthian converts, with the connivance, not to say with the approbation, of the church; and enjoins the church to purge itself of this scandal, by expelling the offender from its society: "It is reported commonly, that there is fornication among you, and such fornication, as is not so much as named amongst the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife; and ye

“ are puffed up, and have not rather mourn-  
 “ ed, that he that hath done this deed might  
 “ be taken away from among you ; for I,  
 “ verily, as absent in body, but present in  
 “ spirit, have judged already, as though I  
 “ were present, concerning him that hath so  
 “ done this deed ; in the name of our Lord  
 “ Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered toge-  
 “ ther, and my spirit, with the power of  
 “ our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such a  
 “ one unto Satan for the destruction of the  
 “ flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the  
 “ day of the Lord” (chap. v. ver. 1—5).

In the second epistle, we find this sentence  
 executed, and the offender to be so affected  
 with the punishment, that St. Paul now  
 intercedes for his restoration : “ Sufficient  
 “ to such a man is this punishment, which  
 “ was inflicted of many ; so that, contrari-  
 “ wise, ye ought rather to forgive him and  
 “ comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should  
 “ be swallowed up with over-much sorrow ;  
 “ wherefore I beseech you, that ye would  
 “ confirm your love towards him” (2 Cor.  
 chap. ii. ver. 7, 8). Is this whole business  
 feigned for the sake of carrying on a conti-

nuation of story through the two epistles ?  
 The church also, no less than the offender,  
 was brought by St. Paul's reproof to a deep  
 sense of the impropriety of their conduct.  
 Their penitence, and their respect to his au-  
 thority, were, as might be expected, exceed-  
 ingly grateful to St. Paul: " We were com-  
 " forted not by Titus's coming only, but by  
 " the consolation wherewith he was com-  
 " forted in you, when he told us your earnest  
 " desire, your mourning, you fervent mind  
 " towards me, so that I rejoiced the more ;  
 " for, though I made you sorry with a  
 " letter, I do not repent, though I did re-  
 " pent ; for I perceive that the same epistle  
 " made you sorry, though it were but for a  
 " season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were  
 " made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to re-  
 " pentance ; for ye were made sorry after a  
 " godly manner, that ye might receive da-  
 " mage by us in nothing" (chap. vii. 7—9).  
 That this passage is to be referred to the  
 incestuous marriage, is proved by the twelfth  
 verse of the same chapter: " Though I  
 " wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause  
 " that had done the wrong, nor for his cause,  
 " that

“ that suffered wrong ; but that our care for  
“ you, in the sight of God, might appear  
“ unto you.” There were, it is true, various  
topics of blame noticed in the first epistle ;  
but there was none, except this of the in-  
cestuous marriage, which could be called a  
transaction between private parties, or of  
which it could be said that one particular  
person had “ done the wrong,” and another  
particular person “ had suffered it.” Could all  
this be without foundation ? or could it be  
put into the second epistle, merely to furnish  
an obscure sequel to what had been said about  
an incestuous marriage in the first ?

3. In the sixteenth chapter of the first  
epistle, a collection for the saints is recom-  
mended to be set forwards at Corinth :  
“ Now, concerning the collection for the  
“ saints, as I have given order to the  
“ churches of Galatia, so do ye” (chap. xvi.  
ver. 1). In the ninth chapter of the second  
epistle, such a collection is spoken of, as in  
readiness to be received : “ As touching the  
“ ministering to the saints, it is superfluous  
“ for me to write to you, for I know the  
“ forwardness of your mind, for which I  
“ boast

“boast of you to them of Macedonia, that  
“Achaia was ready a year ago, and your  
“zeal hath provoked very many” (chap. ix.  
ver. 1, 2). This is such a continuation of  
the transaction as might be expected; or,  
possibly it will be said, as might easily be  
counterfeited: but there is a circumstance  
of nicety in the agreement between the two  
epistles, which, I am convinced, the author  
of a forgery would not have hit upon, or  
which, if he had hit upon it, he would have  
set forth with more clearness. The second  
epistle speaks of the Corinthians as having  
begun this eleemosynary business a year be-  
fore: “This is expedient for you, who have  
“begun before, not only to do, but also to  
“be forward a year ago” (chap. viii. ver. 10).  
“I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that  
“Achaia was ready a year ago” (chap. ix.  
ver. 2). From these texts it is evident, that  
something had been done in the business a  
year before. It appears, however, from  
other texts in the epistle, that the contribu-  
tion was not yet collected or paid; for bre-  
thren were sent from St. Paul to Corinth,  
“to make up their bounty” (chap. ix. ver. 5).  
They

They are urged to “perform the doing of it” (chap. viii. ver. 11). “And every man was exhorted to give as he purposed in his heart” (chap. ix. ver. 7). The contribution therefore, as represented in our present epistle, was in readiness, yet not received from the contributors; was begun, was forward long before, yet not hitherto collected. Now this representation agrees with one, and only with one, supposition; namely, that every man had laid by in store, had already provided the fund, from which he was afterwards to contribute—the very case which the first epistle authorises us to suppose to have existed; for in that epistle St. Paul had charged the Corinthians, “upon the first day of the week, every one of them to lay by in store as God had prospered him”\* (1 Cor. chap. xvi. ver. 2).

No.

\* The following observations will satisfy us concerning the purity of our Apostle's conduct in the suspicious business of a pecuniary contribution.

1. He disclaims the having received any inspired authority for the directions which he is giving: “I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love” (2 Cor. chap. viii. ver. 8). Who, that had a sinister purpose

## No. II.

In comparing the second Epistle to the Corinthians with the Acts of the Apostles, we are soon brought to observe, not only that there exists no vestige either of the epistle having been taken from the history, or the history from the epistle; but also that there appears, in the contents of the epistle positive evidence, that neither was borrowed from the other. Titus, who bears a conspicuous

purpose to answer by the recommending of subscriptions, would thus distinguish, and thus lower the credit of his own recommendation?

2. Although he asserts the general right of christian ministers to a maintenance from their ministry, yet he protests against the making use of this right in his own person: "Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel; but I have used none of these things, neither have I written these things that it should be so done unto me; for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying, i. e. my professions of disinterestedness, void" (1 Cor. chap. ix. ver. 14, 15).

3. He repeatedly proposes that there should be associates with himself in the management of the public bounty; not colleagues of his own appointment, but persons elected for that purpose by the contributors themselves:



cuous part in the epistle, is not mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles at all. St. Paul's sufferings enumerated, chap. xi. ver. 24, "of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one; thrice was I beaten with rods; once was I stoned; thrice I suffered shipwreck; a night and a day I have been in the deep," cannot be made out from

selves: "And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem; and if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me" (1 Cor. chap. xvi. ver. 3, 4). And in the second epistle, what is here proposed, we find actually done, and done for the very purpose of guarding his character against any imputation that might be brought upon it, in the discharge of a pecuniary trust: "And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; and not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace (gift) which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and the declaration of your ready mind; avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us; providing for things honest, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men;" i. e. "not resting in the consciousness of our own integrity, but, in such a subject, careful also to approve our integrity to the public judgment" (2 Cor. chap. viii. ver. 18—21).

his

his history, as delivered in the Acts, nor would this account have been given by a writer, who either drew his knowledge of St. Paul from that history, or who was careful to preserve a conformity with it. The account in the epistle, of St. Paul's escape from Damascus, though agreeing in the main fact with the account of the same transaction in the Acts, is related with such difference of circumstance, as renders it utterly improbable that one should be derived from the other. The two accounts, placed by the side of each other, stand as follows:

2. Cor. chap. xi. ver. 32,  
33. "In Damascus, the  
"governor under Aretas  
"the king, kept the city  
"of the Damascenes with  
"a garrison, desirous to  
"apprehend me; and  
"through a window in a  
"basket was I let down by  
"the wall, and escaped his  
"hands."

Acts, chap. ix. ver. 23—  
25. "And after many days  
"were fulfilled, the Jews  
"took counsel to kill him;  
"but their laying in wait  
"was known of Saul, and  
"they watched the gates  
"day and night to kill him;  
"then the disciples took  
"him by night, and let him  
"down by the wall in a bas-  
"ket."

Now if we be satisfied in general concern-  
ing these two ancient writings, that the one  
was

was not known to the writer of the other, or not consulted by him; then the accords which may be pointed out between them, will admit of no solution so probable, as the attributing of them to truth and reality, as to their common foundation,

### No. III.

The opening of this epistle exhibits a connection with the history, which alone would satisfy my mind, that the epistle was written by St. Paul, and by St. Paul in the situation in which the history places him. Let it be remembered, that in the nineteenth chapter of the Acts, St. Paul is represented as driven away from Ephesus, or as leaving however Ephesus, in consequence of an uproar in that city, excited by some interested adversaries of the new religion. The account of the tumult is as follows: "When  
" they heard these sayings, viz. Demetrius's complaint of the danger to be apprehended from St. Paul's ministry to the established worship of the Ephesian goddesses,  
" they were full of wrath, and cried out  
" saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians;  
" and

“ and the whole city was filled with confusion ; and having caught Gaius and Ariftarchus, Paul’s companions in travel, they  
“ rushed with one accord into the theatre ;  
“ and when Paul would have entered in  
“ unto the people, the disciples suffered him  
“ not ; and certain of the chief of Asia,  
“ which were his friends, sent unto him,  
“ desiring that he would not adventure himself into the theatre. Some, therefore,  
“ cried one thing, and some another ; for the  
“ assembly was confused, and the more part  
“ knew not wherefore they were come together. And they drew Alexander out  
“ of the multitude, the Jews putting him  
“ forward ; and Alexander beckoned with  
“ his hand, and would have made his defence unto the people ; but, when they  
“ knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice,  
“ about the space of two hours, cried out,  
“ Great is Diana of the Ephesians.—And  
“ after the uproar was ceased, Paul called  
“ unto him the disciples, and embraced  
“ them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.” When he was arrived in Macedonia, he wrote the second Epistle to the  
Corin-

Corinthians which is now before us; and he begins his epistle in this wise: "Blessed  
" be God, even the father of our Lord  
" Jesus Christ, the father of mercies, and  
" the God of all comfort, who comforteth  
" us in all our tribulation, that we may be  
" able to comfort them which are in any  
" trouble, by the comfort wherewith we  
" ourselves are comforted of God. For, as  
" the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so  
" our consolation also aboundeth by Christ:  
" and whether we be afflicted, it is for your  
" consolation and salvation, which is ef-  
" fectual in the enduring of the same suffer-  
" ings, which we also suffer; or whether we  
" be comforted, it is for your consolation  
" and salvation; and our hope of you is  
" steadfast, knowing that, as ye are partakers  
" of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the  
" consolation. For we would not, brethren,  
" have you ignorant of our trouble *which*  
" *came to us in Asia*, that we were pressed  
" out of measure, above strength, inso-  
" much that we despaired even of life; but  
" we had the sentence of death in ourselves,  
" that we should not trust in ourselves, but

“ in God which raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.” Nothing could be more expressive of the circumstances in which the history describes St. Paul to have been, at the time when the epistle purports to be written; or rather, nothing could be more expressive of the sensations arising from these circumstances, than this passage. It is the calm recollection of a mind emerged from the confusion of instant danger. It is that devotion and solemnity of thought, which follows a recent deliverance. There is just enough of particularity in the passage, to shew that it is to be referred to the tumult at Ephesus: “ We would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia.” And there is nothing more; no mention of Demetrius, of the seizure of St. Paul’s friends, of the interference of the town-clerk, of the occasion or nature of the danger which St. Paul had escaped, or even of the city where it happened; in a word, no recital from which a suspicion could be conceived, either that the author of the

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epistle

epistle had made use of the narrative in the Acts; or on the other hand, that he had sketched the outline, which the narrative in the Acts only filled up. That the forger of an epistle, under the name of St. Paul, should borrow circumstances from a history of St. Paul then extant; or, that the author of a history of St. Paul should gather materials from letters bearing St. Paul's name, may be credited: but I cannot believe that any forger whatever should fall upon an expedient so refined, as to exhibit sentiments adapted to a situation, and to leave his readers to seek out that situation from the history; still less, that the author of a history should go about to frame facts and circumstances, fitted to supply the sentiments which he found in the letter. It may be said, perhaps, that it does not appear from the history, that any danger threatened St. Paul's life in the uproar at Ephesus, so imminent as that, from which in the epistle he represents himself to have been delivered. This matter, it is true, is not stated by the historian in form; but the personal danger of the apostle, we cannot doubt must have been extreme, when the

“ whole city was filled with confusion ;” when the populace had “ seized his companions ;” when, in the distraction of his mind, he insisted upon “ coming forth amongst them ;” when the Christians who were about him “ would not suffer him ;” when “ his friends, certain of the chief of Asia, sent to him, desiring that he would not adventure himself in the tumult ;” when, lastly, he was obliged to quit immediately the place and the country, “ and, when the tumult was ceased, to depart into Macedonia.” All which particulars are found in the narration, and justify St. Paul’s own account, “ that he was pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that he despaired even of life, that he had the sentence of death in himself ;” *i. e.* that he looked upon himself as a man condemned to die.

#### No. IV.

It has already been remarked, that St. Paul’s original intention was to have visited Corinth in his way to Macedonia : “ I was minded to come unto you before, and to pass by you into Macedonia” (2. Cor. chap.



chap. i. ver. 15, 16). It has also been remarked that he changed this intention, and ultimately resolved upon going through Macedonia *first*. Now upon this head there exists a circumstance of correspondency between our epistle and the history, which is not very obvious to the reader's observation; but which, when observed, will be found, I think, close and exact. Which circumstance is this: that though the change of St. Paul's intention be expressly mentioned only in the second epistle, yet it appears, both from the history and from this second epistle, that the change had taken place before the writing of the first epistle; that it appears however from neither, otherwise than by an inference, unnoticed perhaps by almost every one who does not sit down professedly to the examination.

First, then, how does this point appear from the history? In the nineteenth chapter of the Acts, and the twenty-first verse, we are told, that " Paul purposed in the spirit, " when he had passed through Macedonia " and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem. So he " sent into Macedonia two of them that

“ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself staid in Asia for a season.” A short time after this, and evidently in pursuance of the same intention, we find (chap. xx. ver. 1, 2) that “Paul departed from Ephesus for to go into Macedonia; and that, when he had gone over those parts, he came into Greece.” The resolution therefore of passing first through Macedonia, and from thence into Greece, was formed by St. Paul previously to the sending away of Timothy. The order in which the two countries are mentioned, shews the direction of his intended route, “when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia.” Timothy and Erastus, who were to precede him in his progress, were sent by him from Ephesus into Macedonia. He himself a short time afterwards, and, as hath been observed, evidently in continuation and pursuance of the same design, “departed for to go into Macedonia.” If he had ever therefore entertained a different plan of his journey, which is not hinted in the history, he must have changed that plan before this time. But, from the seventeenth

teenth verse of the fourth chapter of the first Epistle to the Corinthians, we discover, that Timothy had been sent away from Ephesus before that epistle was written : “ For this  
“ cause have I sent unto you Timotheus,  
“ who is my beloved son.” The change therefore of St. Paul’s resolution, which was prior to the sending away of Timothy, was necessarily prior to the writing of the first Epistle to the Corinthians.

Thus stands the order of dates, as collected from the history, compared with the first epistle. Now let us enquire, secondly, how this matter is represented in the epistle before us. In the sixteenth verse of the first chapter of this epistle, St. Paul speaks of the intention which he had once entertained of visiting Achaia, in his way to Macedonia :  
“ In this confidence I was minded to come  
“ unto you before, that ye might have a se-  
“ cond benefit; and to pass by you into  
“ Macedonia.” After protesting, in the seventeenth verse, against any evil construction that might be put upon his laying aside of this intention, in the twenty-third verse he discloses the cause of it : “ Moreover I

“ call God for a record upon my soul, that,  
“ to spare you, I came not as yet unto Co-  
“ rinth.” And then he proceeds as follows:  
“ But I determined this with myself, that  
“ I would not come again to you in heavi-  
“ ness ; for if I make you sorry, who is he  
“ then that maketh me glad, but the same  
“ which is made sorry by me? *And I wrote*  
“ *this same unto you*, lest when I came I  
“ should have sorrow from them of whom  
“ I ought to rejoice ; having confidence in  
“ you all, that my joy is the joy of you all:  
“ for, out of much affliction and anguish of  
“ heart, *I wrote unto you with many tears* ;  
“ not that ye should be grieved, but that ye  
“ might know the love which I have more  
“ abundantly unto you ; but if any have  
“ caused grief, he hath not grieved me but  
“ in part, that I may not overcharge you  
“ all. Sufficient to such a man is this pu-  
“ nishment, which was inflicted of many.”

In this quotation, let the reader first direct his attention to the clause marked by Italics, “ and I wrote this same unto you ;” and let him consider, whether from the context, and from the structure of the whole passage, it  
be

be not evident that this writing was after St. Paul had "determined with himself, that " he would not come again to them in heaviness?" whether, indeed, it was not in consequence of this determination, or at least with this determination upon his mind? And, in the next place, let him consider, whether the sentence, " I determined this " with myself, that I would not come again " to you in heaviness," do not plainly refer to that postponing of his visit, to which he had alluded in the verse but one before, when he said, " I call God for a record upon my " soul, that, to spare you, I came not as yet " unto Corinth;" and whether this be not the visit of which he speaks in the sixteenth verse, wherein he informs the Corinthians, " that he had been minded to pass by them " into Macedonia;" but that, for reasons which argued no levity or fickleness in his disposition, he had been compelled to change his purpose. If this be so, then it follows that the writing here mentioned was posterior to the change of his intention. The only question, therefore, that remains will be, whether this writing relate to the letter  
which

which we now have under the title of the first Epistle to the Corinthians, or to some other letter not extant? And upon this question I think Mr. Locke's observation decisive; namely, that the second clause marked in the quotation by Italics, "I wrote unto you with many tears," and the first clause so marked, "I wrote this same unto you," belong to one writing, whatever that was; and that the second clause goes on to advert to a circumstance which is found in our present first Epistle to the Corinthians; namely, the case and punishment of the incestuous person. Upon the whole then we see, that it is capable of being inferred from St. Paul's own words, in the long extract which we have quoted, 'that the first Epistle to the Corinthians was written after St. Paul had determined to postpone his journey to Corinth; in other words, that the change of his purpose, with respect to the course of his journey, though expressly mentioned only in the second epistle, had taken place before the writing of the first; the point which we made out to be implied in the history, by the order of the events there recorded, and the

the allusions to those events in the first epistle. Now this is a species of congruity of all others the most to be relied upon. It is not an agreement between two accounts of the same transaction, or between different statements of the same fact, for the fact is not stated; nothing that can be called an account is given; but it is the junction of two conclusions, deduced from independent sources, and deducible only by investigation and comparison.

This point, viz. the change of the route, being prior to the writing of the first epistle, also falls in with, and accounts for, the manner in which he speaks in that epistle of his journey. His first intention had been, as he here declares, to "pass by them into Macedonia;" that intention having been previously given up, he writes, in his first epistle, "that he would not see them now by the way," i. e. as he must have done upon his first plan; "but that he trusted to tarry awhile with them, and possibly to abide, yea and winter with them" (1 Cor. chap. xvi. ver. 5, 6. It also accounts for a singularity in the text referred to, which must strike every

every reader : “ I will come to you when I “ pass through Macedonia ; for I do pass “ through Macedonia.” The supplemental sentence, “ for I do pass through Macedonia ” imports that there had been some previous communication upon the subject of the journey ; and also that there had been some vacillation and indecisiveness in the apostle’s plan ; both which we now perceive to have been the case. The sentence is as much as to say, “ this is what I at last resolve upon.” The expression “ *οταν Μακεδονιαν διελθω*,” is ambiguous ; it may denote either “ when I “ pass, or when I shall have passed, through “ Macedonia ;” the considerations offered above fix it to the latter sense. Lastly, the point we have endeavoured to make out, confirms, or rather indeed is necessary to the support of a conjecture, which forms the subject of a number in our observations upon the first epistle, that the insinuation of certain of the church of Corinth, that he would come no more amongst them, was founded in some previous disappointment of their expectations.



## No. V.

But if St. Paul had changed his purpose before the writing of the first epistle, why did he defer explaining himself to the Corinthians, concerning the reason of that change, until he wrote the second? This is a very fair question; and we are able, I think, to return to it a satisfactory answer. The real cause, and the cause at length assigned by St. Paul for postponing his visit to Corinth, and not travelling by the route which he had at first designed, was the disorderly state of the Corinthian church at the time, and the painful severities which he should have found himself obliged to exercise, if he had come amongst them during the existence of these irregularities. He was willing therefore to try, before he came in person, what a letter of authoritative ob- jurgation would do amongst them, and to leave time for the operation of the experiment. That was his scheme in writing the first epistle. But it was not for him to acquaint them with the scheme. After the epistle had produced its effect (and to the utmost

utmost extent, as it should seem, of the apostle's hopes); when he had wrought in them a deep sense of their fault, and an almost passionate solicitude to restore themselves to the approbation of their teacher; when Titus (chap. vii. ver. 6, 7, 11) had brought him intelligence "of their earnest desire, their  
"mourning, their fervent mind towards  
"him, of their sorrow and their penitence;  
"what carefulness, what clearing of themselves, what indignation, what fear, what  
"vehement desire, what zeal, what revenge," his letter, and the general concern occasioned by it, had excited amongst them; he then opens himself fully upon the subject. The affectionate mind of the apostle is touched by this return of zeal and duty. He tells them that he did not visit them at the time proposed, lest their meeting should have been attended with mutual grief; and with grief to him embittered by the reflection, that he was giving pain to those, from whom alone he could receive comfort. "I determined this with myself,  
"that I would not come again to you in  
"heaviness; for if I make you sorry, who  
"is

“ is he that maketh me glad but the same  
 “ which is made sorry by me?” (chap. ii.  
 ver. 1, 2) that he had written his former epistle to warn them beforehand of their fault,  
 “ lest when he came he should have sorrow  
 “ of them of whom he ought to rejoice” (chap. ii. ver. 3); that he had the farther view, though perhaps unperceived by them, of making an experiment of their fidelity,  
 “ to know the proof of them, whether they  
 “ were obedient in all things” (chap. ii. ver. 9). This full discovery of his motive came very naturally from the apostle, after he had seen the success of his measures, but would not have been a seasonable communication before. The whole composes a train of sentiment and of conduct resulting from real situation, and from real circumstance, and as remote as possible from fiction or imposture.

#### No. VI.

Chap. xi. ver. 9. “ When I was present  
 “ with you and wanted, I was chargeable to  
 “ no man; for that which was lacking to  
 “ me, the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied.” The principal fact set forth

forth in this passage, the arrival at Corinth of brethren from Macedonia during St. Paul's first residence in that city, is explicitly recorded, *Act*, chap. xviii. ver. 1, 5: "After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ."

### No. VII.

The above quotation from the *Acts* proves that Silas and Timotheus were assisting to St. Paul in preaching the gospel at Corinth. With which correspond the words of the epistle (chap. i. ver. 19): "For the son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me, and Sylvanus, and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea." I do admit that the correspondency, considered by itself, is too direct and obvious; and that an impostor with the history before him might, and probably would, produce agreements of the same kind. But let it be remembered, that this reference is found in a writing, which from  
many

many discrepancies, and especially from those noted No. II. we may conclude, was not composed by any one who had consulted, and who pursued the history. Some observation also arises upon the variation of the name. We read Silas in the Acts; Silvanus in the epistle. The similitude of these two names, if they were the names of different persons, is greater than could easily have proceeded from accident; I mean that it is not probable, that two persons placed in situations so much alike, should bear names so nearly resembling each other\*. On the other hand, the difference of the name in the two passages, negatives the supposition of the passages, or the account contained in them, being transcribed either from the other.

### No. VIII.

Chap. ii. ver. 12, 13. “ When I came  
“ to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a  
“ door was opened unto me of the Lord,

\* That they were the same person is farther confirmed by 1 Theff. chap. i. ver. 1, compared with Acts, chap. xvii. ver. 10.

“ I had no rest in my spirit, because I found  
“ not Titus my brother ; but taking my  
“ leave of them, I went from thence into  
“ Macedonia.”

To establish a conformity between this passage and the history, nothing more is necessary to be presumed, than that St. Paul proceeded from Ephesus to Macedonia, upon the same course by which he came back from Macedonia to Ephesus, or rather to Miletus in the neighbourhood of Ephesus ; in other words, that, in his journey to the peninsula of Greece, he went and returned the same way. St. Paul is now in Macedonia, where he had lately arrived from Ephesus. Our quotation imports that in his journey he had stopped at Troas. Of this, the history says nothing, leaving us only the short account, “ that Paul departed from Ephesus, for to go “ into Macedonia.” But the history says, that in his *return* from Macedonia to Ephesus, “ Paul sailed from Philippi to *Troas* ; and that, when the disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread, Paul preached unto them all night ; that from Troas he went by land to *Affos* ; from  
2 Affos,

Affios, taking ship and coasting along the front of Asia Minor, he came by Mytelene to Miletus." Which account proves, first, that Troas lay in the way by which St. Paul passed between Ephesus and Macedonia; secondly, that he had disciples there. In one journey between these two places, the epistle, and in another journey between the same places, the history makes him stop at this city. Of the first journey he is made to say, "that a door was in that city opened unto him of the Lord;" in the second we find disciples there collected around him, and the apostle exercising his ministry, with, what was even in him, more than ordinary zeal and labour. The epistle therefore is in this instance confirmed, if not by the terms, at least by the probability of the history; a species of confirmation by no means to be despised, because, as far it reaches, it is evidently uncontrived.

Grotius, I know, refers the arrival at Troas, to which the epistle alludes, to a different period, but I think very improbably; for nothing appears to me more certain, than that the meeting with Titus, which St. Paul

expected at Troas, was the same meeting which took place in Macedonia, viz. upon Titus's coming out of Greece. In the quotation before us, he tells the Corinthians, "When I came to Troas, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus, my brother; but, taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia." Then in the seventh chapter he writes, "When we were come into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears; nevertheless God, that comforteth them that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus." These two passages plainly relate to the same journey of Titus, in meeting with whom St. Paul had been disappointed at Troas, and rejoiced in Macedonia. And amongst other reasons which fix the former passage to the coming of Titus out of Greece, is the consideration, that it was nothing to the Corinthians that St. Paul did not meet with Titus at Troas, were it not that he was to bring intelligence from Corinth. The mention of the disappointment.



pointment in this place, upon any other supposition, is irrelative.

### No. IX.

Chap. xi. ver. 24, 25. “ Of the Jews  
“ five times received I forty stripes save one ;  
“ thrice was I beaten with rods ; once was  
“ I stoned ; thrice I suffered shipwreck ; a  
“ night and a day I have been in the deep.”

These particulars cannot be extracted out of the Acts of the Apostles ; which proves, as hath been already observed, that the epistle was not framed from the history ; yet they are consistent with it, which, considering how numerically circumstantial the account is, is more than could happen to arbitrary and independent fictions. When I say that these particulars are *consistent* with the history, I mean, first, that there is no article in the enumeration which is contradicted by the history ; secondly, that the history, though silent with respect to many of the facts here enumerated, has left space for the existence of these facts, consistent with the fidelity of its own narration.

First, no contradiction is discoverable be-

tween the epistle and the history. When St. Paul says, *thrice* was I beaten with rods, although the history record only *one* beating with rods, viz. at Philippi, Acts, chap. xvi, ver. 22, yet is there no contradiction. It is only the omission in one book of what is related in another. But had the history contained accounts of *four* beatings with rods, at the time of writing this epistle, in which St. Paul says that he had only suffered three, there would have been a contradiction properly so called. The same observation applies generally to the other parts of the enumeration, concerning which the history is silent : but there is one clause in the quotation particularly deserving of remark ; because, when confronted with the history, it furnishes the nearest approach to a contradiction, without a contradiction being actually incurred, of any I remember to have met with. “ Once,” saith St. Paul, “ was I stoned.” Does the history relate that St. Paul, prior to the writing of this epistle, had been stoned more than once ? The history mentions distinctly one occasion upon which St. Paul was stoned, viz. at Lystra  
in

in Lycaonia. "Then came thither certain  
 "Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who  
 "persuaded the people; and, having stoned  
 "Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing  
 "he had been dead." (chap. xiv. ver. 19).  
 And it mentions also another occasion in  
 which "an assault was made both of the  
 "Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their  
 "rulers, to use them despitefully and to stone  
 "them; but they were aware of it," the his-  
 tory proceeds to tell us, "and fled into Ly-  
 "stra and Derbe." This happened at Iconium,  
 prior to the date of the epistle. Now had  
 the assault been completed; had the history  
 related that a stone was thrown, as it relates  
 that preparations were made both by Jews  
 and Gentiles to stone Paul and his com-  
 panions; or even had the account of this  
 transaction stopped, without going on to in-  
 form us that Paul and his companions  
 were "aware of their danger and fled," a  
 contradiction between the history and the  
 epistle would have ensued. Truth is neces-  
 sarily consistent; but it is scarcely possible  
 that independent accounts, not having truth  
 to guide them, should thus advance to the

very brink of contradiction without falling into it.

Secondly, I say, that if the Acts of the Apostles be silent concerning many of the instances enumerated in the epistle, this silence may be accounted for, from the plan and fabric of the history. The date of the epistle synchronises with the beginning of the twentieth chapter of the Acts. The part, therefore, of the history, which precedes the twentieth chapter, is the only part in which can be found any notice of the persecutions to which St. Paul refers. Now it does not appear that the author of the history was with St. Paul until his departure from Troas, on his way to Macedonia, as related chap. xvi. ver. 10; or rather indeed the contrary appears. It is in this point of the history that the language changes. In the seventh and eighth verses of this chapter the third person is used. "After *they* were come to Mysia, "*they* assayed to go into Bithynia, but the "*spirit* suffered them not; and *they* passing "*by* Mysia, came to Troas:" and the third person is in like manner constantly used throughout the foregoing part of the history.

In

In the tenth verse of this chapter, the first person comes in: "After Paul had seen the vision, immediately *we* endeavoured to go into Macedonia; assuredly gathering that the Lord had called *us* to preach the gospel unto them." Now, from this time to the writing of the epistle, the history occupies four chapters: yet it is in these, if in any, that a regular or continued account of the apostle's life is to be expected; for how succinctly his history is delivered in the preceding part of the book, that is to say, from the time of his conversion to the time when the historian joined him at Troas, except the particulars of his conversion itself which are related circumstantially, may be understood from the following observations:

The history of a period of sixteen years is comprised in less than three chapters; and of these, a material part is taken up with discourses. After his conversion, he continued in the neighbourhood of Damascus, according to the history, for a certain considerable, though indefinite length of time, according to his own words (Gal. ch. i. ver. 18),  
for

for three years ; of which no other account is given than this short one, that “ straight-way he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God ; that all that heard him were amazed, and said, Is not this he that destroyed them which called on his name in Jerusalem ? that he increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus ; and that, after many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him.” From Damascus he proceeded to Jerusalem ; and of his residence there nothing more particular is recorded, than that “ he was with the apostles, coming “ in and going out ; that he spake boldly in “ the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed “ against the Grecians who went about to “ kill him.” From Jerusalem, the history sends him to his native city of Tarsus\*. It seems probable, from the order and disposition of the history, that St. Paul’s stay at Tarsus was of some continuance ; for we hear nothing more of him, until, after a long apparent interval, and much interjacent nar-

\* Acts, chap. ix. ver. 30.

rative, Barnabas, desirous of Paul's assistance upon the enlargement of the Christian mission, "went to Tarsus for to seek him\*."

We cannot doubt but that the new apostle had been busied in his ministry; yet of what he did, or what he suffered, during this period, which may include three or four years, the history professes not to deliver any information. As Tarsus was situated upon the sea coast, and as, though Tarsus was his home, yet it is probable he visited from thence many other places, for the purpose of preaching the Gospel, it is not unlikely, that in the course of three or four years, he might undertake many short voyages to neighbouring countries, in the navigating of which we may be allowed to suppose that some of those disasters and shipwrecks befel him, to which he refers in the quotation before us, "thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep." This last clause I am inclined to interpret of his being obliged to take to an open boat, upon the loss of the ship, and his continuing

\* Chap. xi. ver. 25.

out at sea in that dangerous situation, a night and a day. St. Paul is here recounting his sufferings, not relating miracles. From Tarsus, Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch, and there he remained a year; but of the transactions of that year no other description is given than what is contained in the four last verses of the eleventh chapter. After a more solemn dedication to the ministry, Barnabas and Paul proceeded from Antioch to Cilicia, and from thence they sailed to Cyprus, of which voyage no particulars are mentioned. Upon their return from Cyprus, they made a progress together through the Lesser Asia; and though two remarkable speeches be preserved, and a few incidents in the course of their travels circumstantially related, yet it is the account of this progress, upon the whole, given professedly with conciseness: for instance, at Iconium it is said that they abode a long time\*; yet of this long abode, except concerning the manner in which they were driven away, no memoir is inserted in the

\* Chap. xiv. ver. 3.



history. The whole is wrapped up in one short summary, "they spake boldly in the " Lord, which gave testimony unto the word " of his grace, and granted signs and won- " ders to be done by their hands." Having completed their progress, the two apostles returned to Antioch, "and there they abode long time with the disciples." Here we have another large portion of time passed over in silence. To this succeeded a journey to Jerusalem, upon a dispute which then much agitated the Christian church, concerning the obligation of the law of Moses. When the object of that journey was completed, Paul proposed to Barnabas to go again and visit their brethren in every city where they had preached the word of the Lord. The execution of this plan carried our Apostle through Syria, Cilicia, and many provinces of the Lesser Asia; yet is the account of the whole journey dispatched, in four verses of the sixteenth chapter.

If the Acts of the Apostles had undertaken to exhibit regular annals of St. Paul's ministry, or even any continued account of his life, from his conversion at Damascus

to

to his imprisonment at Rome, I should have thought the omission of the circumstances referred to in our epistle, a matter of reasonable objection. But when it appears, from the history itself, that large portions of St. Paul's life were either passed over in silence, or only slightly touched upon, and that nothing more than certain detached incidents and discourses are related; when we observe also, that the author of the history did not join our apostle's society till a few years before the writing of the epistle, at least that there is no proof in the history that he did so; in comparing the history with the epistle, we shall not be surprised by the discovery of omissions; we shall ascribe it to truth that there is no contradiction.

### No. X.

Chap. iii. ver. 1. "Do we begin again  
 "to commend ourselves; or need we, as  
 "some others, epistles of commendation to  
 "you?"

"As some others." Turn to Acts xviii. 27,  
 and you will find that, a short time before  
 the writing of this epistle, Apollos had gone  
 to

to Corinth with letters of commendations from the Ephesian Christians; “ and when  
“ Apollos was disposed to pass into Achaia,  
“ the brethren wrote, exhorting the disci-  
“ ples to receive him.” Here the words of the epistle bear the appearance of alluding to some specific instance, and the history supplies that instance; it supplies at least an instance as apposite as possible to the terms which the apostle uses, and to the date and direction of the epistle, in which they are found. The letter which Apollos carried from Ephesus, was precisely the letter of commendation which St. Paul meant; and it was to Achaia of which Corinth was the capital, and indeed to Corinth itself (Acts, chap. xix. ver. 1), that Apollos carried it; and it was about two years before the writing of this epistle. If St. Paul’s words be rather thought to refer to some general usage which then obtained among Christian churches, the case of Apollos exemplifies that usage; and affords that species of confirmation to the epistle, which arises from seeing the manners of the age, in which it purports to be written, faithfully preserved.

No.

## No. XI.

Chap. xiii. ver. 1. "This is the third  
 "time I am coming to you" (*τρίτον τετο  
 ερχομαι*).

Do not these words import that the writer had been at Corinth twice before? yet, if they import this, they overset every congruity we have been endeavouring to establish. The Acts of the Apostles record only two journeys of St. Paul to Corinth. We have all along supposed, what every mark of time except this expression indicates, that the epistle was written between the first and second of these journeys. If St. Paul had been already twice at Corinth, this supposition must be given up; and every argument or observation which depends upon it, falls to the ground. Again, the Acts of the Apostles not only record no more than two journeys of St. Paul to Corinth, but do not allow us to suppose that more than two such journeys could be made or intended by him within the period which the history comprises; for, from his first journey into Greece to his first imprisonment at Rome,

with

with which the history concludes, the apostle's time is accounted for. If therefore the epistle was written after the second journey to Corinth, and upon the view and expectation of a third, it must have been written after his first imprisonment at Rome, *i. e.* after the time to which the history extends. When I first read over this epistle with the particular view of comparing it with the history, which I chose to do without consulting any commentary whatever, I own that I felt myself confounded by this text. It appeared to contradict the opinion, which I had been led by a great variety of circumstances to form, concerning the date and occasion of the epistle. At length however it occurred to my thoughts to inquire, whether the passage did necessarily imply that St. Paul had been at Corinth twice; or whether, when he says "this is the third time I am coming to you," he might mean only that this was the third time that he was ready, that he was prepared, that he intended to set out upon his journey to Corinth. I recollected that he had once before this purposed to visit Corinth, and

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had been disappointed in his purpose; which disappointment forms the subject of much apology and protestation, in the first and second chapters of the epistle. Now, if the journey in which he had been disappointed was reckoned by him one of the times in which "he was coming to them," then the present would be the third time, *i. e.* of his being ready and prepared to come; although he had been actually at Corinth only *once* before. This conjecture being taken up, a farther examination of the passage and the epistle, produced proofs which placed it beyond doubt. "This is the third time I am coming to you:" in the verse following these words he adds, "I told you before, "and foretel you, as if I were present *the* "secondtime; and being absent, now I write "to them which heretofore have sinned, "and to all other, that if I come again, I "will not spare." In this verse, the apostle is declaring beforehand what he would do in his intended visit: His expression therefore, "as if I were present the second time," relates to that visit. But, if his future visit would only make him present among them  
a second

a second time, it follows that he had been already there but once. Again, in the fifteenth verse of the first chapter, he tells them, “ In this confidence, I was minded to come “ unto you before, that you might have a “ *second* benefit.” Why a second, and not a third benefit? why δευτεραν, and not τριτην χαριν, if the τριτον ερχομαι, in the fifteenth chapter, meant a *third* visit? for, though the visit in the first chapter be that visit in which he was disappointed, yet, as it is evident from the epistle that he had never been at Corinth, from the time of the disappointment to the time of writing the epistle, it follows, that if it was only a second visit in which he was disappointed then, it could only be a second visit which he proposed now. But the text which I think is decisive of the question, if any question remain upon the subject, is the fourteenth verse of the twelfth chapter: “ Behold the third time I am ready to come to you” (Ιδε, τριτον ετοιμως εχω ελθειν). It is very clear that the τριτον ετοιμως εχω ελθειν of the twelfth chapter and the τριτον τετο ερχομαι of the thirteenth chapter, are equivalent expressions,

preſſions, were intended to convey the ſame meaning, and to relate to the ſame journey. the compariſon of theſe phraſes gives us St. Paul's own explanation of his own words; and it is that very explanation which we are contending for, viz, that *τρίτον τετὸ ἐρχομαι* does not mean that he was coming a third time, but that this was the third time he was in readineſs to come, *τρίτον ετοίμως ἐχων*. I do not apprehend, that after this it can be neceſſary to call to our aid the reading of the Alexandrian manuſcript, which gives *ετοίμως ἐχω ἐλθεῖν* in the thirteenth chapter as well as in the twelfth; or of the Syriac and Coptic verſions, which follow that reading; becauſe I allow that this reading, beſides not being ſufficiently ſupported by ancient copies, is probably paraphraſtical, and has been inſerted for the purpoſe of expreſſing more unequivocally the ſenſe, which the ſhorter expreſſion *τρίτον τετὸ ἐρχομαι* was ſuppoſed to carry. Upon the whole, the matter is ſufficiently certain; nor do I propoſe it as a new interpretation of the text which contains the difficulty, for the ſame was given by Grotius long ago;



ago; but I thought it the clearest way of explaining the subject, to describe the manner in which the difficulty, the solution, and the proofs of that solution, successively presented themselves to my inquiries. Now, in historical researches, a reconciled inconsistency becomes a positive argument. First, because an impostor generally guards against the appearance of inconsistency; and secondly, because, when apparent inconsistencies are found, it is seldom that any thing but truth renders them capable of reconciliation. The existence of the difficulty proves the want or absence of that caution, which usually accompanies the consciousness of fraud; and the solution proves, that it is not the collusion of fortuitous propositions which we have to deal with, but that a thread of truth winds through the whole, which preserves every circumstance in its place.

## No. XII.

Chap. x. ver. 14—16. “ We are come  
 “ as far as to you also, in preaching the  
 “ Gospel of Christ; not boasting of things  
 “ without our measure, that is, of other

“ men’s labours; but having hope, when  
“ your faith is increased, that we shall be  
“ enlarged by you, according to our rule,  
“ abundantly to preach the Gospel in the  
“ regions beyond you.”

This quotation affords an indirect, and therefore unsuspecting, but at the same time a distinct and indubitable recognition of the truth and exactness of the history. I consider it to be implied by the words of the quotation, that Corinth was the extremity of St. Paul’s travels *hitherto*. He expresses to the Corinthians his hope, that in some future visit he might “ preach the Gospel to the regions beyond them;” which imports that he had not hitherto proceeded “ beyond them,” but that Corinth was as yet the farthest point or boundary of his travels. Now, how is St. Paul’s first journey into Europe, which was the only one he had taken before the writing of the epistle, traced out in the history? Sailing from Asia, he landed at Philippi; from Philippi, traversing the eastern coast of the peninsula, he passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica; from thence through Berea  
to

to Athens, and from Athens to Corinth, *where he stopped*; and from whence, after a residence of a year and a half, he sailed back into Syria. So that Corinth was the last place which he visited in the peninsula; was the place from which he returned into Asia; and was, as such, the boundary and limit of his progress. He could not have said the same thing, viz. "I hope hereafter to visit the regions beyond you," in an epistle to the Philippians, or in an epistle to the Thessalonians, inasmuch as he must be deemed to have already visited the regions beyond *them*, having proceeded from those cities to other parts of Greece. But from Corinth he returned home; every part therefore, beyond that city, might properly be said, as it is said in the passage before us, to be unvisited. Yet is this propriety, the spontaneous effect of truth, and produced without meditation or design.

## CHAP. V.

## THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS.

## No. I.

THE argument of this epistle in some measure proves its antiquity. It will hardly be doubted, but that it was written whilst the dispute concerning the circumcision of Gentile converts was fresh in men's minds: for, even supposing it to have been a forgery, the only credible motive that can be assigned for the forgery, was to bring the name and authority of the apostle into this controversy. No design could be so insipid, or so unlikely to enter into the thoughts of any man, as to produce an epistle written earnestly and pointedly upon one side of a controversy, when the controversy itself was dead, and the question no longer interesting to any description of readers whatever. Now the controversy concerning the circumcision of the Gentile Christians

Christians was of such a nature, that, if it arose at all, it must have arisen in the beginning of Christianity. As Judæa was the scene of the Christian history; as the author and preachers of Christianity were Jews; as the religion itself acknowledged and was founded upon the Jewish religion, in contradistinction to every other religion then professed amongst mankind; it was not to be wondered at, that some of its teachers should carry it out in the world rather as a sect and modification of Judaism, than as a separate original revelation; or that they should invite their proselytes to those observances, in which they lived themselves. This was likely to happen; but if it did not happen *at first*; if, whilst the religion was in the hands of Jewish teachers, no such claim was advanced, no such condition was attempted to be imposed, it is not probable that the doctrine would be started, much less that it should prevail in any future period. I likewise think, that those pretensions of Judaism were much more likely to be insisted upon, whilst the Jews continued a nation, than after their fall and dispersion; whilst Jerusalem and

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the temple stood, than after the destruction brought upon them by the Roman arms, the fatal cessation of the sacrifice and the priesthood, the humiliating loss of their country, and, with it, of the great rites and symbols of their institution. It should seem therefore, from the nature of the subject, and the situation of the parties, that this controversy was carried on in the interval between the preaching of Christianity to the Gentiles, and the invasion of Titus; and that our present epistle, which was undoubtedly intended to bear a part in this controversy, must be referred to the same period.

But, again, the epistle supposes that certain designing adherents of the Jewish law had crept into the churches of Galatia; and had been endeavouring, and but too successfully, to persuade the Galatic converts, that they had been taught the new religion imperfectly and at second hand; that the founder of their church himself possessed only an inferior and deputed commission, the seat of truth and authority being in the apostles and elders of Jerusalem; moreover, that whatever he might profess amongst them,  
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he had himself at other times, and in other places, given way to the doctrine of circumcision.—The epistle is unintelligible without supposing all this. Referring therefore to this, as to what had actually passed, we find St. Paul treating so unjust an attempt to undermine his credit, and to introduce amongst his converts a doctrine which he had uniformly reprobated, in terms of great asperity and indignation. And in order to refute the suspicions which had been raised concerning the fidelity of his teaching, as well as to assert the independency and divine original of his mission, we find him appealing to the history of his conversion, to his conduct under it, to the manner in which he had conferred with the apostles when he met with them at Jerusalem; alledging, that so far was his doctrine from being derived from them, or they from exercising any superiority over him, that they had simply assented to what he had already preached amongst the Gentiles, and which preaching was communicated not by them to him, but by himself to them; that he had maintained the liberty of the Gentile church,

church, by opposing, upon one occasion, an apostle to the face, when the timidity of his behaviour seemed to endanger it; that from the first, that all along, that to that hour, he had constantly resisted the claims of Judaism; and that the persecutions which he daily underwent, at the hands or by the instigation of the Jews, and of which he bore in his person the marks and scars, might have been avoided by him, if he had consented to employ his labours in bringing, through the medium of Christianity, converts over to the Jewish institution, for then "would the offence of the cross have ceased."

Now an impostor who had forged the epistle for the purpose of producing St. Paul's authority in the dispute, which, as hath been observed, is the only credible motive that can be assigned for the forgery, might have made the apostle deliver his opinion upon the subject, in strong and decisive terms, or might have put his name to a train of reasoning and argumentation upon that side of the question, which the imposture was intended to recommend. I can allow the possibility of such a scheme as that. But for a writer,



writer, with this purpose in view, to feign a series of transactions supposed to have passed amongst the Christians of Galatia, and then to counterfeit expressions of anger and resentment excited by these transactions; to make the apostle travel back into his own history, and into a recital of various passages of his life, some indeed directly, but others obliquely, and others even obscurely bearing upon the point in question; in a word, to substitute narrative for argument, expostulation and complaint for dogmatic positions and controversial reasoning, in a writing properly controversial, and of which the aim and design was to support one side of a much agitated question—is a method so intricate, and so unlike the methods pursued by all other impostors, as to require very flagrant proofs of imposition to induce us to believe it to be one.

## No. II.

In this number I shall endeavour to prove,

1. That the Epistle to the Galatians, and the Acts of the Apostles, were written without any communication with each other.

2. That

2. That the epistle, though written without any communication with the history, by recital, implication, or reference, bears testimony to many of the facts contained in it.

I. The epistle and the Acts of the Apostles were written without any communication with each other.

To judge of this point, we must examine those passages in each, which describe the same transaction; for if the author of either writing derived his information from the account which he had seen in the other, when he came to speak of the same transaction, he would follow that account. The history of St. Paul, at Damascus, as read in the Acts, and as referred to by the epistle, forms an instance of this sort. According to the Acts, Paul (after his conversion) was certain days with the “disciples  
“which were at Damascus; and straight-  
“way he preached Christ in the synagogues,  
“that he is the son of God. But all that  
“heard him were amazed, and said, is not  
“this he which destroyed them which called  
“on this name in Jerusalem, and came hi-  
“ther for that intent, that he might bring  
“them

“ them bound unto the chief priests? But  
 “ Saul increased the more in strength, con-  
 “ founding the Jews which were at Damaf-  
 “ cus, proving that this is the very Christ.  
 “ And after many days were fulfilled, the  
 “ Jews took counsel to kill him; but their  
 “ laying in wait was known of Saul, and they  
 “ watched the gates day and night to kill  
 “ him; then the disciples took him by night,  
 “ and let him down by the wall in a basket;  
 “ and when Saul was come to Jerusalem,  
 “ he assayed to join himself to the disci-  
 “ ples.” Acts, chap. ix. ver. 19—26.

According to the epistle, “ when it pleased  
 “ God, who separated me from my mo-  
 “ ther’s womb, and called me by his grace,  
 “ to reveal his own son in me, that I  
 “ might preach him among the heathen,  
 “ immediately I conferred not with flesh  
 “ and blood, neither went I up to Jerusa-  
 “ lem to them which were apostles before  
 “ me: but I went into Arabia, and return-  
 “ ed again to Damascus; then, after three  
 “ years, I went up to Jerusalem.”

Beside the difference observable in the  
 terms and general complexion of these two  
 accounts,

accounts, "the journey into Arabia," mentioned in the epistle, and omitted in the history, affords full proof that there existed no correspondence between these writers. If the narrative in the Acts had been made up from the epistle, it is impossible that this journey should have been passed over in silence; if the epistle had been composed out of what the author had read of St. Paul's history in the Acts, it is unaccountable that it should have been inserted\*.

The journey to Jerusalem related in the second chapter of the epistle ("then, fourteen years after, I went up again to Jerusalem") supplies another example of the same kind. Either this was the journey described in the fifteenth chapter of the Acts, when Paul

\* N. B. The Acts of the Apostles simply inform us that St. Paul left Damascus in order to go to Jerusalem, "after many days were fulfilled." If any one doubt whether the words "many days" could be intended to express a period which included a term of three years, he will find a complete instance of the same phrase used with the same latitude in the first book of Kings, chap. xi. ver. 38, 39: "And Shimei dwelt at Jerusalem *many days*; and it came to pass, at the end of *three years*, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away."

and

and Barnabas were sent from Antioch to Jerusalem, to consult the apostles and elders upon the question of the Gentile converts ; or it was some journey of which the history does not take notice. If the first opinion be followed, the discrepancy in the two accounts is so considerable, that it is not without difficulty they can be adapted to the same transaction : so that, upon this supposition, there is no place for suspecting that the writers were guided or assisted by each other. If the latter opinion be preferred, we have then a journey to Jerusalem, and a conference with the principal members of the church there, circumstantially related in the epistle, and entirely omitted in the Acts : and we are at liberty to repeat the observation, which we before made, that the omission of so material a fact in the history is inexplicable, if the historian had read the epistle ; and that the insertion of it in the epistle, if the writer derived his information from the history, is not less so.

St. Peter's visit to Antioch, during which the dispute arose between him and St. Paul, is not mentioned in the Acts.

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If we connect, with these instances, the general observation, that no scrutiny can discover the smallest trace of transcription or imitation either in things or words, we shall be fully satisfied in this part of our case; namely, that the two records, be the facts contained in them true or false, come to our hands from independent sources.

Secondly, I say that the epistle, thus proved to have been written without any communication with the history, bears testimony to a great variety of particulars contained in the history.

1. St. Paul in the early part of his life had addicted himself to the study of the Jewish religion, and was distinguished by his zeal for the institution and for the traditions which had been incorporated with it. Upon this part of his character the history makes St. Paul speak thus: "I am verily a  
 " man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a  
 " city of Cilicia, yet brought up in this city  
 " at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught accord-  
 " ing to the perfect manner of the law of the  
 " fathers; and was zealous towards God,  
 " as

“ as ye all are this day.” Acts, chap. xxii. ver 3.

The epistle as follows: “ I profited in  
“ the Jews religion above many my equals  
“ in mine own nation, being more exceed-  
“ ingly zealous of the traditions of my fa-  
“ thers.” Chap. i. ver. 14.

2. St. Paul, before his conversion, had  
been a fierce persecutor of the new sect.  
“ As for Saul, he made havoc of the  
“ church; entering into every house, and  
“ haling men and women, committed them  
“ to prison.” Acts, chap. viii. ver. 3.

This is the history of St. Paul, as delivered  
in the Acts; in the recital of his own  
history in the epistle, “ Ye have heard,”  
says he, “ of my conversation in times past  
“ in the Jews religion, how that beyond  
“ measure I persecuted the church of God.”  
Chap. i. ver. 13.

3. St. Paul was miraculously converted on  
his way to Damascus. “ And as he jour-  
“ neyed he came near to Damascus: and sud-  
“ denly there shined round about him a light  
“ from heaven; and he fell to the earth, and  
“ heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul,

“ why persecutest thou me? And he said,  
 “ Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said,  
 “ I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest: it is  
 “ hard for thee to kick against the pricks.  
 “ And he, trembling and astonished, said  
 “ Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”  
 Acts, chap. ix. ver. 3—6. With these com-  
 pare the epistle, chap. i. ver. 15—17:  
 “ When it pleased God, who separated me  
 “ from my mother’s womb, and called me  
 “ by his grace to reveal his son in me, that  
 “ I might preach him among the heathen;  
 “ immediately I conferred not with flesh  
 “ and blood, neither went I up to Jerusa-  
 “ lem; to them that were apostles before  
 “ me; but I went into Arabia, and re-  
 “ turned again unto Damascus.”

In this quotation from the epistle, I desire  
 it to be remarked how incidentally it appears,  
 that the affair passed at *Damascus*. In what  
 may be called the direct part of the account,  
 no mention is made of the place of his con-  
 version at all; a casual expression at the  
 end, and an expression brought in for a dif-  
 ferent purpose, alone fixes it to have been  
 at Damascus: “ I returned again to Damas-  
 cus.”



cus." Nothing can be more like simplicity and undesignedness than this is. It also draws the agreement between the two quotations somewhat closer, to observe that they both state St. Paul to have preached the gospel immediately upon his call: "And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the son of God." Acts, chap. ix. ver. 20. "When it pleased God to reveal his son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." Gal. chap. i. ver. 15.

4. The course of the apostle's travels after his conversion was this: He went from Damascus to Jerusalem, and from Jerusalem into Syria and Cilicia. "At Damascus the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket; and when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples." (Acts, chap. ix. ver. 25). Afterwards, "when the brethren knew the conspiracy formed against him at Jerusalem, they brought him down to Cæsarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus, a city in Cilicia" (chap. ix.

ver. 30). In the epistle, St. Paul gives the following brief account of his proceedings within the same period: "After three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days; afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia." The history had told us that Paul passed from Cæsarea to Tarsus: if he took this journey by land, it would carry him through Syria into Cilicia; and he would come, after his visit at Jerusalem, "into the regions of Syria and Cilicia," in the very order in which he mentions them in the epistle. This supposition of his going from Cæsarea to Tarsus *by land*, clears up also another point. It accounts for what St. Paul says in the same place concerning the churches of Judea: "Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and was unknown by face unto the churches of Judea, which were in Christ: but they had heard only that he which persecuted us in times past, now preacheth the faith, which once he destroyed; and they glorified God in me." Upon which passage I observe, first, that what is here said of the churches

churches of Judea, is spoken in connection with his journey into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. Secondly, that the passage itself has little significancy, and that the *connection* is inexplicable, unless St. Paul went through Judea\* (though probably by a hasty journey) at the time that he came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. Suppose him to have passed by land from Cæsarea to Tarsus, all this, as hath been observed, would be precisely true.

5. Barnabas was with St. Paul at Antioch. "Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church." Acts, chap. xi. ver. 25, 26. Again, and upon another occasion, "they (Paul and Barnabas)

\* Dr. Doddridge thought that the Cæsarea here mentioned was not the celebrated city of that name upon the Mediterranean sea, but Cæsarea Philippi, near the borders of Syria, which lies in a much more direct line from Jerusalem to Tarsus than the other. The objection to this, Dr. Benson remarks, is, that Cæsarea, without any addition, usually denotes Cæsarea Palestinae.

“ failed to Antioch ; and there they continued a long time with the disciples.”

Chap. xiv. ver. 26.

Now what says the epistle ? “ When Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed ; and the other Jews dissembled likewise with him ; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.” Chap. ii. ver. 11. 13.

6. The stated residence of the apostles was at Jerusalem. “ At that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem ; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles” (Acts, chap. viii. ver. 1). “ They (the Christians at Antioch) determined that Paul and Barnabas should go up to Jerusalem, unto the apostles and elders, about this question” (Acts, chap. xv. ver. 2). With these accounts agrees the declaration in the epistle : “ Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me” (chap. i. ver. 17) : for this declaration implies, or rather assumes it to be known, that  
Jerusalem

Jerusalem was the place where the apostles were to be met with.

7. There were at Jerusalem two apostles, or at the least two eminent members of the church, of the name of James. This is directly inferred from the Acts of the Apostles, which in the second verse of the twelfth chapter relates the death of James, the brother of John; and yet in the fifteenth chapter, and in a subsequent part of the history, records a speech delivered by James in the assembly of the apostles and elders. It is also strongly implied by the form of expression used in the epistle: "Other apostles saw I none, save James, the *Lord's* brother;" *i. e.* to distinguish him from James the brother of John.

To us who have been long conversant in the Christian history, as contained in the Acts of the Apostles, these points are obvious and familiar; nor do we readily apprehend any greater difficulty in making them appear in a letter purporting to have been written by St. Paul, than there is in introducing them into a modern sermon. But, to judge correctly of the argument before us, we must

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discharge this knowledge from our thoughts. We must propose to ourselves the situation of an author who sat down to the writing of the epistle without having seen the history; and then the concurrences we have deduced will be deemed of importance. They will at least be taken for separate confirmations of the several facts: and not only of these particular facts, but of the general truth of the history.

For what is the rule with respect to corroborative testimony which prevails in courts of justice, and which prevails only because experience has proved that it is an useful guide to truth? A principal witness in a cause delivers his account: his narrative, in certain parts of it, is confirmed by witnesses who are called afterwards. The credit derived from their testimony belongs not only to the particular circumstances in which the auxiliary witnesses agree with the principal witness, but in some measure to the whole of his evidence; because it is improbable that accident or fiction should draw a line which touched upon truth in so many points.

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In like manner, if two records be produced manifestly independent, that is, manifestly written without any participation of intelligence, an agreement between them, even in few and flight circumstances (especially if, from the different nature and design of the writings; few points only of agreement, and those incidental, could be expected to occur) would add a sensible weight to the authority of both, in every part of their contents.

The same rule is applicable to history, with at least as much reason as any other species of evidence.

### No. III.

But although the references to various particulars in the epistle, compared with the direct account of the same particulars in the history, afford a considerable proof of the truth not only of these particulars, but of the narrative which contains them; yet they do not shew, it will be said, that the epistle was written by St. Paul: for admitting (what seems to have been proved) that the writer, whoever he was, had no recourse to the Acts of the Apostles, yet many of the facts referred to,

to, such as St. Paul's miraculous conversion, his change from a virulent persecutor to an indefatigable preacher, his labours amongst the Gentiles, and his zeal for the liberties of the Gentile church, were so notorious as to occur readily to the mind of any Christian, who should choose to personate his character, and counterfeit his name: it was only to write what every body knew. Now I think that this supposition—viz. that the epistle was composed upon general information, and the general publicity of the facts alluded to, and that the author did no more than weave into his work what the common fame of the Christian church had reported to his ears—is repelled by the particularity of the recitals and references. This particularity is observable in the following instances; in perusing which, I desire the reader to reflect, whether they exhibit the language of a man who had nothing but general reputation to proceed upon, or of a man actually speaking of himself and of his own history, and consequently of things concerning which he possessed a clear, intimate, and circumstantial knowledge.

i. The



1. The history, in giving an account of St. Paul after his conversion, relates, "that, after many days," effecting, by the assistance of the disciples, his escape from Damascus, "he proceeded to Jerusalem" (Acts, chap. ix. ver. 25). The epistle, speaking of the same period, makes St. Paul say that "he went into Arabia," that he returned again to Damascus, that after three years he went up to Jerusalem. Chap. i. ver. 17, 18.

2. The history relates, that, when Saul was come from Damascus, "he was with the disciples coming in and going out" (Acts, chap. ix. ver. 28). The epistle, describing the same journey, tells us "that he went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days." Chap. i. ver. 18.

3. The history relates, that, when Paul was come to Jerusalem, "Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles" (Acts, chap. ix. ver. 27). The epistle, "that he saw Peter; but other of the apostles saw he none, save James, the Lord's brother." Chap. i. ver. 19.

Now

Now this is as it should be. The historian delivers his account in general terms, as of facts to which he was not present. The person who is the subject of that account, when he comes to speak of these facts himself, particularizes time, names, and circumstances.

4. The like notation of places, persons, and dates, is met with in the account of St. Paul's journey to Jerusalem, given in the second chapter of the epistle. It was fourteen years after his conversion; it was in company with Barnabas and Titus; it was then that he met with James, Cephas, and John; it was then also that it was agreed amongst them, that they should go to the circumcision, and he unto the Gentiles.

5. The dispute with Peter, which occupies the sequel of the second chapter, is marked with the same particularity. It was at Antioch; it was after certain came from James; it was whilst Barnabas was there, who was carried away by their dissimulation. These examples negative the insinuation, that the epistle presents nothing but indefinite allusions to public facts.

No.

## No. IV.

Chap. iv. ver. 11—16. “ I am afraid of  
 “ you, lest I have bestowed upon you la-  
 “ bour in vain. Brethren, I beseech you,  
 “ be as I am, for I am as ye are. Ye have  
 “ not injured me at all. Ye know how,  
 “ through infirmity of the flesh, I preached  
 “ the gospel unto you at the first ; and *my*  
 “ *temptation, which was in the flesh*, ye de-  
 “ spised not, nor rejected ; but received me  
 “ as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.  
 “ Where is then the blessedness you spake  
 “ of ? for I bear you record, that, if it had  
 “ been possible, ye would have plucked out  
 “ your own eyes, and have given them  
 “ unto me. Am I therefore become your  
 “ enemy, because I tell you the truth ?”

With this passage compare 2 Cor. chap.  
 xii. ver. 1—9 : “ It is not expedient for me,  
 “ doubtless, to glory ; I will come to visions  
 “ and revelations of the Lord. I knew a  
 “ man in Christ above fourteen years ago  
 “ (whether in the body I cannot tell, or  
 “ whether out of the body I cannot tell ;  
 “ God

“ God knoweth); such a one was caught up  
 “ to the third heaven: and I knew such a  
 “ man (whether in the body or out of the  
 “ body I cannot tell, God knoweth), how  
 “ that he was caught up into Paradise,  
 “ and heard unspeakable words, which it is  
 “ not lawful for a man to utter. Of such  
 “ a one will I glory, yet of myself will I  
 “ not glory, but in mine infirmities: for,  
 “ though I would desire to glory, I shall not  
 “ be a fool; for I will say the truth. But  
 “ now I forbear, lest any man should think  
 “ of me above that which he seeth me to be,  
 “ or that he heareth of me. And lest I  
 “ should be exalted above measure, through  
 “ the abundance of the revelations, there  
 “ was given to me *a thorn in the flesh, the*  
 “ *messenger of Satan to buffet me*, lest I should  
 “ be exalted above measure. For this thing  
 “ I besought the Lord thrice, that it might  
 “ depart from me. And he said unto me,  
 “ My grace is sufficient for thee; for my  
 “ strength is made perfect in weakness.  
 “ Most gladly therefore will I rather glory  
 “ in my infirmities, that the power of  
 “ Christ may rest upon me.”

There

There can be no doubt but that "the temptation which was in the flesh," mentioned in the Epistle to the Galatians; and "the thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet him," mentioned in the Epistle to the Corinthians, were intended to denote the same thing. Either therefore it was, what we pretend it to have been, the same person in both, alluding, as the occasion led him, to some bodily infirmity under which he laboured; that is, we are reading the real letters of a real apostle; or, it was that a sophist, who had seen the circumstance in one epistle, contrived, for the sake of correspondency, to bring it into another; or, lastly, it was a circumstance in St. Paul's personal condition, supposed to be well known to those into whose hands the epistle was likely to fall; and, for that reason, introduced into a writing designed to bear his name. I have extracted the quotations at length, in order to enable the reader to judge accurately of the manner in which the mention of this particular comes in, in each; because that judgment, I think, will acquit the authors of the epistle of the charge of

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having

having studiously inserted it, either with a view of producing an apparant agreement between them, or for any other purpose whatever.

The context, by which the circumstance before us is introduced, is in the two places totally different, and without any mark of imitation; yet in both places does the circumstance rise aptly and naturally out of the context, and that context from the train of thought carried on in the epistle.

The Epistle to the Galatians, from the beginning to the end, runs in a strain of angry complaint of their defection from the apostle, and from the principles which he had taught them. It was very natural to contrast, with this conduct, the zeal with which they had once received him; and it was not less so to mention, as a proof of their former disposition towards him, the indulgence which, whilst he was amongst them, they had shewn to his infirmity: “ My  
 “ temptation which was in the flesh ye de-  
 “ spised not, nor rejected, but received me  
 “ as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.  
 “ Where is then the blessedness you spake  
 “ of,

“ of, *i. e.* the benedictions which you bestowed upon me? for I bear you record, that if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.”

In the two epistles to the Corinthians, especially in the second, we have the apostle contending with certain teachers in Corinth, who had formed a party in that church against him. To vindicate his personal authority, as well as the dignity and credit of his ministry amongst them, he takes occasion (but not without apologizing repeatedly for the folly, that is, for the indecorum of pronouncing his own panegyric\*) to meet his adversaries in their boastings: “ Whereinsoever any is bold (I speak foolishly) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they

\* “ Would to God you would bear with me a little in my folly, and indeed bear with me.” Chap. xi. ver. 1.

“ That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.” Chap. xi. ver. 17.

“ I am become a fool in glorying, ye have compelled me.” Chap. xii. ver. 11.

“ the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are  
 “ they the ministers of Christ? (I speak  
 “ as a fool) I am more; in labours more  
 “ abundant, in stripes above measure, in  
 “ prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.”

Being led to the subject, he goes on, as was natural, to recount his trials and dangers, his incessant cares and labours in the Christian mission. From the proofs which he had given of his zeal and activity in the service of Christ, he passes (and that with the same view of establishing his claim to be considered as “ not a whit behind the very chiefest of the apostles”) to the visions and revelations which from time to time had been vouchsafed to him. And then, by a close and easy connection, comes in the mention of his infirmity: “ Lest I should be exalted, says he, “ above measure, through the  
 “ abundance of revelations, there was given  
 “ to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger  
 “ of Satan to buffet me.”

Thus then, in both epistles, the notice of his infirmity is suited to the place in which it is found. In the Epistle to the Corinthians, the train of thought draws up to the circum-



circumstance by a regular approximation. In the epistle, it is suggested by the subject and occasion of the epistle itself. Which observation we offer as an argument to prove that it is not, in either epistle, a circumstance industriously brought forward for the sake of procuring credit to an imposture.

A reader will be taught to perceive the force of this argument, who shall attempt to introduce a *given* circumstance into the body of a writing. To do this without abruptness, or without betraying marks of design in the transition, requires, he will find, more art than he expected to be necessary, certainly more than any one can believe to have been exercised in the composition of these epistles.

### No. V.

Chap. iv. ver. 29. “ But as then he that  
 “ was born after the flesh persecuted him  
 “ that was born after the spirit, even so is  
 “ it now.”

Chap. v. ver. 11. “ And I, brethren, if I yet  
 “ preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer

“ persecution ? Then is the offence of the  
“ cross ceased.”

Chap. vi. ver. 17. “ From henceforth,  
“ let no man trouble me, for I bear in my  
“ body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”

From these several texts, it is apparent that the persecutions which our apostle had undergone, were from the hands or by the instigation of the Jews ; that it was not for preaching Christianity in opposition to heathenism, but it was for preaching it as distinct from Judaism, that he had brought upon himself the sufferings which had attended his ministry. And this representation perfectly coincides with that which results from the detail of St. Paul’s history, as delivered in the Acts. At Antioch; in Pisidia, the  
“ word of the Lord was published through-  
“ out all the region ; but the *Jews stirred*  
“ *up* the devout and honourable women and  
“ the chief men of the city, and raised per-  
“ secution against Paul and Barnabas, and  
“ expelled them out of their coasts.”—  
(Acts, chap. xiii. ver. 50). Not long after, at Iconium, “ a great multitude of the Jews  
“ and also of the Greeks believed ; but the  
“ *unbe-*

“ *unbelieving Jews* stirred up the Gentiles,  
 “ and made their minds evil affected against  
 “ the brethren” (chap. xiv. ver. 1, 2). “ At  
 “ Lystra there came certain Jews from An-  
 “ tioch and Iconium, who persuaded the  
 “ people; and having stoned Paul, drew him  
 “ out of the city, supposing he had been  
 “ dead” (chap. xiv. ver. 19). The same  
 enmity, and from the same quarter, our apo-  
 stle experienced in Greece: “ At Thessalo-  
 “ nica, some of them (the Jews) believed,  
 “ and conformed with Paul and Silas; and of  
 “ the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of  
 “ the chief women not a few: but *the Jews*  
 “ *which believed not*, moved with envy, took  
 “ unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser  
 “ sort, and gathered a company, and set  
 “ all the city in an uproar, and assaulted the  
 “ house of Jason, and sought to bring them  
 “ out to the people” (Acts, chap. xviii.  
 ver. 4, 5). Their persecutors follow them  
 to Berea: “ When the *Jews* of Thessalonica  
 “ had knowledge that the word of God was  
 “ preached of St. Paul at Berea, they came  
 “ thither also, and stirred up the people”  
 (chap. xvii. ver. 13). And lastly at Corinth,

when Gallio was deputy of Achaia, “ *the*  
 “ *Jews* made insurrection with one accord  
 “ against Paul, and brought him to the  
 “ judgment-seat.” I think it does not ap-  
 pear that our apostle was ever set upon by  
 the Gentiles, unless they were first stirred  
 up by the Jews, except in two instances; in  
 both which the persons who began the as-  
 sault were immediately interested in his ex-  
 pulsion from the place. Once this happened  
 at Philippi, after the cure of the Pythoness:  
 “ When the masters saw the hope of their  
 “ gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas,  
 “ and drew them into the market-place unto  
 “ the rulers” (chap. xvi. ver. 19). And a  
 second time at Ephesus, at the instance of  
 Demetrius a silversmith which made silver  
 shrines for Diana, “ who called together work-  
 “ men of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye  
 “ know that by this craft we have our wealth;  
 “ moreover, ye see and hear that not only at  
 “ Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia,  
 “ this Paul hath persuaded away much peo-  
 “ ple, saying, that they be no gods which are  
 “ made with hands; so that not only this  
 “ our craft is in danger to be set at nought,  
 “ but

“ but also that the temple of the great gods  
 “ des Diana should be despised, and her  
 “ magnificence should be destroyed, whom  
 “ all Asia and the world worshippeth.”

## No. VI.

I observe an agreement in a somewhat peculiar rule of Christian conduct, as laid down in this epistle, and as exemplified in the second Epistle to the Co.inthians. It is not the repetition of the same general precept, which would have been a coincidence of little value ; but it is the general precept in one place, and the application of that precept to an actual occurrence in the other. In the sixth chapter and first verse of this epistle, our apostle gives the following direction : “ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye, which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness.” In 2 Cor. chap. ii. ver. 6—8, he writes thus : “ Sufficient to such a man ” (the incestuous person mentioned in the first epistle) “ is this punishment, which was inflicted of many ; so that, contrariwise, ye  
 “ ought

“ought rather to forgive him and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with over-much sorrow; wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love towards him.” I have little doubt but that it was the same mind which dictated these two passages.

## No. VII.

Our epistle goes farther than any of St. Paul's epistles; for it avows in direct terms the supersession of the Jewish law, as an instrument of salvation, even to the Jews themselves. Not only were the Gentiles exempt from its authority, but even the Jews were no longer either to place any dependency upon it, or consider themselves as subject to it on a religious account. “Before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed; wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith; but, after that faith is come, *we are no longer under a schoolmaster*” (ch. iii. ver. 23—25).  
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This was undoubtedly spoken of Jews and to Jews. In like manner, chap. iv. ver. 1—5 : “ Now I say that the heir, as  
 “ long as he is a child, differeth nothing  
 “ from a servant, though he be lord of all ;  
 “ but is under tutors and governors until the  
 “ time appointed of the father : even so we,  
 “ when we were children, were in bondage  
 “ under the elements of the world ; but, when  
 “ the fulness of time was come, God sent  
 “ forth his Son, made of a woman, made  
 “ under the law, to *redeem them that were*  
 “ *under the law*, that we might receive the  
 “ adoption of sons.” These passages are nothing short of a declaration, that the obligation of the Jewish law, considered as a religious dispensation, the effects of which were to take place in another life, had ceased, with respect even to the Jews themselves. What then should be the conduct of a Jew (for such St. Paul was) who preached this doctrine ? To be consistent with himself, either he would no longer comply, in his own person, with the directions of the law ; or, if he did comply, it would be for some other reason than any confidence which he placed

placed in its efficacy, as a religious institution. Now so it happens, that whenever St. Paul's compliance with the Jewish law is mentioned in the history, it is mentioned in connection with circumstances which point out the motive from which it proceeded; and this motive appears to have been always exoteric, namely, a love of order and tranquility, or an unwillingness to give unnecessary offence. Thus, Acts, chap. xvi. ver. 3 : " Him (Timothy) would Paul have to go forth with him, and took and circumcised him, *because of the Jews which were in those quarters.*" Again (Acts, chap. xxi. ver. 26), when Paul consented to exhibit an example of public compliance with a Jewish rite, by purifying himself in the temple, it is plainly intimated that he did this to satisfy " many thousand of Jews who believed, and who were all zealous of the law." So far the instances related in one book, correspond with the doctrine delivered in another.

No.



## No. VIII.

Chap. i. ver. 18. "Then, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days."

The shortness of St. Paul's stay at Jerusalem, is what I desire the reader to remark. The direct account of the same journey in the Acts, chap. ix. ver. 28, determines nothing concerning the time of his continuance there: "And he was with them (the apostles) coming in, and going out, at Jerusalem; and he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians, but they went about to slay him; which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Cæsarea." Or rather this account, taken by itself, would lead a reader to suppose that St. Paul's abode at Jerusalem had been longer than fifteen days. But turn to the twenty-second chapter of the Acts, and you will find a reference to this visit to Jerusalem, which plainly indicates that Paul's continuance in that city had been of short duration: "And it came  
" to

## 190. EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS.

“ to pass, that when I was come again to  
“ Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the  
“ temple, I was in a trance, and saw him  
“ saying unto me, Make haste, get thee  
“ quickly out of Jerusalem, for they will  
“ not receive thy testimony concerning me.”

Here we have the general terms of one text so explained by a distant text in the same book, as to bring an indeterminate expression into a close conformity with a specification delivered in another book : a species of consistency not, I think, usually found in fabulous relations.

### No. I.

Chap. vi. ver. 11. “ Ye see how large a  
“ letter I have written unto you with mine  
“ own hand.”

These words imply that he did not always write with his own hand; which is consonant to what we find intimated in some other of the epistles. The Epistle to the Romans was written by Tertius: “ I, Tertius, who  
“ wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord” (chap. xvi. ver. 22). The first Epistle to  
2 the

the Corinthians, the Epistle to the Colossians, and the second to the Thessalonians, have all, near the conclusion, this clause. "The salutation of me, Paul, with mine own hand;" which must be understood, and is universally understood to import, that the rest of the epistle was written by another hand. I do not think it improbable that an impostor, who had remarked this subscription in some other epistle, should invent the same in a forgery; but that is not done here. The author of this epistle does not imitate the manner of giving St. Paul's signature; he only bids the Galatians observe how large a letter he had written to them with his own hand. He does not say this was different from his ordinary usage; that is left to implication. Now to suppose that this was an artifice to procure credit to an imposture, is to suppose that the author of the forgery, because he knew that others of St. Paul's were *not* written by himself, therefore made the apostle say that this was: which seems an odd turn to give to the circumstance, and to be given for a purpose which would more naturally and more directly

directly have been answered, by subjoining the salutation or signature in the form in which it is found in other epistles\*.

### No. X.

An exact conformity appears in the manner in which a certain apostle or eminent Christian, whose name was James, is spoken of in the epistle and in the history. Both writings refer to a situation of his at Jerusalem, somewhat different from that of the other apostles; a kind of eminence or presidency in the church there, or at least a more fixed and stationary residence. Chap. ii. ver. 12, "When Peter was at Antioch, before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles." This text

\* The words *πρὸς ἁπαντοίους ἡμεῖς* may probably be meant to describe the character in which he wrote, and not the length of the letter. But this will not alter the truth of our observation. I think however, that as St. Paul by the mention of his own hand designed to express to the Galatians the great concern which he felt for them, the words, whatever they signify, belong to the whole of the epistle; and not, as Grotius, after St. Jerom, interprets it, to the few verses which follow.

plainly

plainly attributes a kind of pre-eminency to James; and, as we hear of him twice in the same epistle dwelling at Jerusalem, chap. i. ver. 19, and ii. 9, we must apply it to the situation which he held in that church. In the Acts of the Apostles divers intimations occur, conveying the same idea of James's situation. When Peter was miraculously delivered from prison, and had surprised his friends by his appearance among them, after declaring unto them how the Lord had brought him out of prison, "Go shew," says he, "these things unto James, and to the brethren" (Acts, chap. xii. ver. 17). Here James is manifestly spoken of in terms of distinction. He appears again with like distinction in the twenty-first chapter and the seventeenth and eighteenth verses: "And when we (Paul and his company) were come to Jerusalem, the day following, Paul went in with us unto James, and all the elders were present." In the debate which took place upon the business of the Gentile converts, in the council at Jerusalem, this same person seems to have taken the lead. It was he who closed the debate, and proposed

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posed the resolution in which the council ultimately concurred: "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God."

Upon the whole, that there exists a conformity in the expressions used concerning *James*, throughout the history, and in the epistle, is unquestionable. But admitting this conformity, and admitting also the undesignedness of it, what does it prove? It proves that the circumstance itself is founded in truth; that is, that James was a real person, who held a situation of eminence in a real society of Christians at Jerusalem. It confirms also those parts of the narrative which are connected with this circumstance. Suppose, for instance, the truth of the account of Peter's escape from prison was to be tried upon the testimony of a witness who, among other things, made Peter, after his deliverance, say, "Go shew these things to James and to the brethren;" would it not be material, in such a trial, to make out by other independent proofs, or by a comparison of proofs, drawn from independent sources,

sources, that there was actually at that time, living at Jerusalem, such a person as James; that this person held such a situation in the society amongst whom these things were transacted, as to render the words which Peter is said to have used concerning him, proper and natural for him to have used? If this would be pertinent in the discussion of oral testimony, it is still more so in appreciating the credit of remote history.

It must not be dissembled that the comparison of our epistle with the history presents some difficulties, or, to say the least, some questions, of considerable magnitude. It may be doubted, in the first place, to what journey the words which open the second chapter of the epistle, "then, fourteen years afterwards, I went unto Jerusalem," relate. That which best corresponds with the date, and that to which most interpreters apply the passage, is the journey of Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, when they went thither from Antioch, upon the business of the Gentile converts; and which journey produced the famous council and decree recorded in the fifteenth chapter of Acts. To me this

opinion appears to be encumbered with strong objections. In the epistle Paul tells us that "he went up by revelation" (chap. ii. ver. 2). In the Acts, we read that he was sent by the church of Antioch: "After  
 " no small dissension and disputation, they  
 " determined that Paul and Barnabas, and  
 " certain other of them, should go up to the  
 " apostles and elders about this question" (Acts, chap. xv. ver. 2). This is not very reconcileable. In the epistle St. Paul writes that, when he came to Jerusalem, "he communicated that Gospel which he preached  
 " among the Gentiles, but privately to them  
 " which were of reputation" (chap. ii. ver. 2). If by, "that Gospel" he meant the immunity of the Gentile Christians from the Jewish law (and I know not what else it can mean), it is not easy to conceive how he should communicate that privately, which was the subject of his public message. But a yet greater difficulty remains, viz, that in the account which the epistle gives of what passed upon this visit at Jerusalem, no notice is taken of the deliberation and decree which are recorded in the Acts, and which, according



cording to that history, formed the business for the sake of which the journey was undertaken. The mention of the council and of its determination, whilst the apostle was relating his proceedings at Jerusalem, could hardly have been avoided, if in truth the narrative belong to the same journey. To me it appears more probable that Paul and Barnabas had taken some journey to Jerusalem, the mention of which is omitted in the Acts. Prior to the apostolic decree, we read that "Paul and Barnabas abode at Antioch a long time with the disciples" (Acts, chap. xiv. ver. 28). Is it unlikely that, during this long abode, they might go up to Jerusalem and return to Antioch? Or would the omission of such a journey be unsuitable to the general brevity with which these memoirs are written, especially of those parts of St. Paul's history which took place before the historian joined his society?

But, again, the first account we find in the Acts of the Apostles of St. Paul's visiting Galatia, is in the sixteenth chapter, and the sixth verse: "Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Ga-

“latia, they assayed to go into Bithynia.” The progress here recorded was subsequent to the apostolic decree; therefore that decree must have been extant when our epistle was written. Now, as the professed design of the epistle was to establish the exemption of the Gentile converts from the law of Moses, and as the decree pronounced and confirmed that exemption, it may seem extraordinary that no notice whatever is taken of that determination, nor any appeal made to its authority. Much however of the weight of this objection, which applies also to some other of St. Paul’s epistles, is removed by the following reflections.

1. It was not St. Paul’s manner, nor agreeable to it, to resort or defer much to the authority of the other apostles, especially whilst he was insisting, as he does strenuously throughout this epistle insist, upon his own original inspiration. He who could speak of the very chiefest of the apostles in such terms as the following—“of those who  
 “seemed to be somewhat (whatsoever they  
 “were it maketh no matter to me, God  
 “accepteth no man’s person) for they who  
 “seemed

“seemed to be somewhat in conference  
 “added nothing to me”—he, I say, was not  
 likely to support himself by their decision.

2. The epistle argues the point upon principle; and it is not perhaps more to be wondered at, that in such an argument St. Paul should not cite the apostolic decree, than it would be that, in a discourse designed to prove the moral and religious duty of observing the sabbath, the writer should not quote the thirteenth canon.

3. The decree did not go the length of the position maintained in the epistle; the decree only declares that the apostles and elders at Jerusalem did not impose the observance of the Mosaic law upon the Gentile converts, as a condition of their being admitted into the Christian church. Our epistle argues that the Mosaic institution itself was at an end, as to all effects upon a future state, even with respect to the Jews themselves.

4. They whose error St. Paul combated, were not persons who submitted to the Jewish law, because it was imposed by the authority, or because it was made part

of the law of the Christian church ; but they were persons who, having already become Christians, afterwards voluntarily took upon themselves the observance of the Mosaic code, under a notion of attaining thereby to a greater perfection. This, I think, is precisely the opinion which St. Paul opposes in this epistle. Many of his expressions apply exactly to it : “ Are ye so foolish ? “ having begun in the spirit, are ye now “ made perfect in the flesh ? ” (chap. iii. ver. 3). “ Tell me, ye that desire to be “ under the law, do ye not hear the law ? ” (chap. iv. ver. 21). “ How turn ye again “ to the weak and beggarly elements, where- “ unto ye desire again to be in bondage ? ” (chap. iv. ver. 9). It cannot be thought extraordinary that St. Paul should resist this opinion with earnestness ; for it both changed the character of the Christian dispensation, and derogated expressly from the completeness of that redemption which Jesus Christ had wrought for them that believed in him. But it was to no purpose to alledge to such persons the decision at Jerusalem, for that only shewed that they were not bound to these

these observances by any law of the Christian church: they did not pretend to be so bound. Nevertheless they imagined that there was an efficacy in these observances, a merit, a recommendation to favour, and a ground of acceptance with God for those who complied with them. This was a situation of thought to which the tenor of the decree did not apply. Accordingly, St. Paul's address to the Galatians, which is throughout adapted to this situation, runs in a strain widely different from the language of the decree: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law" (chap. v. ver. 4); *i. e.* whosoever places his dependance upon any merit he may apprehend there to be in legal observances. The decree had said nothing like this; therefore it would have been useless to have produced the decree in an argument of which this was the burthen. In like manner as in contending with an anchorite, who should insist upon the superior holiness of a recluse, ascetic life, and the value of such mortifications in the sight of God, it would be to no purpose to prove that the laws

laws of the church did not require these vows, or even to prove that the laws of the church expressly left every christian to his liberty. This would avail little towards abating his estimation of their merit, or towards settling the point in controversy\*.

Another

\* Mr. Locke's solution of this difficulty is by no means satisfactory. "St. Paul," he says, "did not remind the Galatians of the apostolic decree, because they already had it." In the first place, it does not appear with certainty that they had it; in the second place, if they had it, this was rather a reason, than otherwise, for refreshing them to it. The passage in the Acts, from which Mr. Locke concludes that the Galatic churches were in possession of the decree, is the fourth verse of the sixteenth chapter: "And as they" Paul and Timothy) "went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem." In my opinion, this delivery of the decree was confined to the churches to which St. Paul came, in pursuance of the plan upon which he set out, "of visiting the brethren in every city where he had preached the word of the Lord;" the history of which progress, and of all that pertained to it, is closed in the fifth verse, when the history informs us that, "so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily." Then the history proceeds upon a new section of the narrative, by telling us, that "when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they assayed to  
" go

Another difficulty arises from the account of Peter's conduct towards the Gentile converts at Antioch, as given in the epistle, in the latter part of the second chapter; which conduct, it is said, is consistent neither with the revelation communicated to him, upon the

"go into Bithynia." The decree itself is directed "to the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia;" that is, to churches already founded, and in which this question had been stirred. And I think the observation of the noble author of the *Miscellanea Sacra* is not only ingenious, but highly probable, viz. that there is, in this place, a dislocation of the text, and that the fourth and fifth verses of the sixteenth chapter ought to follow the last verse of the fifteenth, so as to make the entire passage run thus: "And they went through Syria and Cilicia" (to the Christians of which countries the decree was addressed), "confirming the churches; and as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem; and so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily." And then the sixteenth chapter takes up a new and unbroken paragraph: "Then came he to Derbe and Lystra, &c." When St. Paul came, as he did into Galatia, to preach the gospel, for the first time, in a new place, it is not probable that he would make mention of the decree, or rather letter, of the church of Jerusalem, which pre-supposed Christianity to be known, and which related to certain

the conversion of Cornelius, nor with the part he took in the debate at Jerusalem. But, in order to understand either the difficulty or the solution, it will be necessary to state and explain the passage itself. "When Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed; for, before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles; but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision; and the other Jews dissembled likewise with him, insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation: but when

certain doubts that had arisen in some established Christian communities.

The second reason which Mr. Locke assigns for the omission of the decree, viz. "that St. Paul's sole object in the epistle, was to acquit himself of the imputation that had been charged upon him of actually preaching circumcision," does not appear to me to be strictly true. It was not the sole object. The epistle is written in general opposition to the Judaizing inclinations which he found to prevail amongst his converts. The avowal of his own doctrine, and of his steadfast adherence to that doctrine, formed a necessary part of the design of his letter, but was not the whole of it.

"I saw



“ I saw they walked not uprightly, according to the truth of the Gospel, I said unto Peter, before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?” Now the question that produced the dispute to which these words relate, was not whether the Gentiles were capable of being admitted into the Christian covenant; that had been fully settled: nor was it whether it should be accounted essential to the profession of Christianity that they should conform themselves to the law of Moses; that was the question at Jerusalem: but it was, whether, upon the Gentiles becoming Christians, the Jews might thenceforth eat and drink with them, as with their own brethren. Upon this point St. Peter betrayed some inconstancy; and so he might, agreeably enough to his history. He might consider the vision at Joppa as a direction for the occasion, rather than as universally abolishing the distinction between Jew and Gentile; I do not mean with respect to final acceptance

acceptance with God, but as to the manner of their living together in society : at least he might not have comprehended this point with such clearness and certainty, as to stand out upon it against the fear of bringing upon himself the censure and complaint of his brethren in the church of Jerusalem, who still adhered to their ancient prejudices. But Peter, it is said, compelled the Gentiles *Ἰουδαίους*—" why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" How did he do that? The only way in which Peter appears to have compelled the Gentiles to comply with the Jewish institution, was by withdrawing himself from their society. By which he may be understood to have made this declaration: " We do not deny your right to be considered as Christians; we do not deny your title in the promises of the Gospel, even without compliance with our law; but if you would have us Jews live with you, as we do with one another, that is, if you would in all respects be treated by us as Jews, you must live as such yourselves." This, I think, was the compulsion

pulsion which St. Peter's conduct imposed upon the Gentiles, and for which St. Paul reproved him.

As to the part which the historian ascribes to St. Peter, in the debate at Jerusalem, beside that it was a different question which was there agitated from that which produced the dispute at Antioch, there is nothing to hinder us from supposing that the dispute at Antioch was prior to the consultation at Jerusalem; or that Peter, in consequence of this rebuke, might have afterwards maintained firmer sentiments.

## CHAP. VI.

## THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS.

## No. I.

**T**HIS epistle, and the epistle to the Colossians, appear to have been transmitted to their respective churches by the same messenger: "But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things; whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts" (Eph. chap. vi. ver. 21, 22). This text, if it do not expressly declare, clearly I think intimates, that the letter was sent by Tychicus. The words made use of in the epistle to the Colossians are very similar to these, and afford the same implication that Tychicus, in conjunction with Onesimus, was the bearer of the letter to

to that church: "All my state shall Tychicus  
 " declare unto you, who is a beloved bro-  
 " ther, and a faithful minister, and fellow  
 " servant in the Lord, whom I have sent  
 " unto you for the same purpose, that he  
 " might know your estate, and comfort your  
 " hearts; with Onesimus, a faithful and  
 " beloved brother, who is one of you: they  
 " shall make known unto you all things  
 " which are done here" (Colos. chap. iv.  
 ver. 7—9). Both epistles represent the writer  
 as under imprisonment for the gospel; and  
 both treat of the same general subject. The  
 epistle therefore to the Ephesians, and the  
 epistle to the Colossians, import to be two  
 letters written by the same person, at, or  
 nearly at, the same time, and upon the same  
 subject, and to have been sent by the same  
 messenger. Now, every thing in the senti-  
 ments, order, and diction of the two writings  
 corresponds with what might be expected  
 from this circumstance of identity or cognation  
 in their original. The leading doctrine  
 of both epistles is the union of Jews and  
 Gentiles under the Christian dispensation;  
 and that doctrine in both is established by

P the

the same arguments, or, more properly speaking, illustrated by the same similitudes\* : “one head,” “one body,” “one new man,” “one temple,” are in both epistles the figures, under which the society of believers in Christ, and their common relation to him as such, is represented†. The ancient, and, as had been thought, the indelible distinction between Jew and Gentile, in both epistles, is declared to be “now abolished by his cross.” Beside this consent in the ge-

\* St. Paul, I am apt to believe, has been sometimes accused of inconclusive reasoning, by our mistaking that for reasoning which was only intended for illustration. He is not to be read as a man, whose own persuasion of the truth of what he taught always or solely depended upon the views under which he represents it in his writings. Taking for granted the certainty of his doctrine, as resting upon the revelation that had been imparted to him, he exhibits it frequently to the conception of his readers under images and allegories, in which if an analogy may be perceived, or even sometimes a poetic resemblance be found, it is all perhaps that is required.

† Compare { Ephes. i. 22, } with { Colos. i. 18. }  
                   { iv. 15, }                   { ii. 19. }  
                   { ii. 15, }                   { iii. 10, 11. }  
 Also { Ephes. ii. 14, 15, } with { Colos. ii. 14. }  
           { ii. 16, }                   { i. 18—21. }  
           { ii. 20, }                   { ii. 7. }

neral

neral tenor of the two epistles, and in the run also and warmth of thought with which they are composed, we may naturally expect, in letters produced under the circumstances, in which these appear to have been written, a closer resemblance of style and diction, than between other letters of the same person, but of distant dates, or between letters adapted to different occasions. In particular we may look for many of the same expressions, and sometimes for whole sentences being alike; since such expressions and sentences would be repeated in the second letter (whichever that was) as yet fresh in the author's mind from the writing of the first. This repetition occurs in the following examples\*;

Ephes. ch. i. ver. 7. “In whom we  
“have redemption through his blood, the  
“forgiveness of sins †.”

\* When *verbal* comparisons are relied upon, it becomes necessary to state the original; but that the English reader may be interrupted as little as may be, I shall in general do this in the note.

† Ephes. ch. i. ver. 7. Εἰς ἣν ἔχομεν τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν διὰ τοῦ αἵματος αὐτοῦ, τὴν ἀφ᾽ ἧς τὴν παραπτώματι.

Colof. ch. i. ver. 14. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins \*."

Beside the sameness of the words, it is farther remarkable that the sentence is, in both places, preceded by the same introductory idea. In the Epistle to the Ephesians it is the "*beloved*" (ἡγάπημενῳ); in that to the Colossians it is "*his dear Son*" (υἱὸς τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ), "in whom we have redemption." The sentence appears to have been suggested to the mind of the writer by the idea which had accompanied it before.

Ephes. ch. i. ver. 10. "All things both which are in heaven and which are in earth, even in him †."

Colof. ch. i. ver. 20. "All things by him, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven ‡."

\* Col. ch. i. ver. 14. Εἰς ᾧ ἔχομεν τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν διὰ τοῦ αἵματος αὐτοῦ, τῆς ἀφίσεως τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν.—However it must be observed, that in this latter text many copies have not διὰ τοῦ αἵματος αὐτοῦ.

† Ephes. ch. i. ver. 10. Τὰ τε ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἢ αὐτῇ.

‡ Colof. ch. i. ver. 20. Δι' αὐτοῦ ἥτις τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἥτις τὰ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

This



This quotation is the more observable, because the connecting of things in earth with things in heaven is a very singular sentiment, and found no where else but in these two epistles. The words also are introduced and followed by a train of thought nearly alike. They are introduced by describing the union, which Christ had effected, and they are followed by telling the Gentile churches that they were incorporated into it.

Ephes. ch. iii. ver. 2. "The dispensation of the grace of God, which is given me to you ward \*."

Colos. ch. i. ver. 25. "The dispensation of God which is given to me for you †."

Of these sentences it may likewise be observed, that the accompanying ideas are similar. In both places they are immediately preceded by the mention of his present sufferings; in both places they are immediately followed by the mention of the

\* Ephes. ch. iii. ver. 2. Τῆς οἰκονομίας τῆς χάριτος Θεοῦ τῆς δοθείσης μοι εἰς ὑμᾶς.

† Colos. ch. i. ver. 25. Τῆς οἰκονομίας τοῦ Θεοῦ τῆς δοθείσης μοι εἰς ὑμᾶς.

mystery which was the great subject of his preaching.

Ephes. ch. v. ver. 19. "In psalms and  
"hymns and spiritual songs, singing and  
"making melody in your heart to the  
"Lord \*."

Colos. ch. iii. ver. 16. "In psalms and  
"hymns and spiritual songs, singing with  
"grace in your hearts to the Lord †."

Ephes. ch. vi. ver. 22. "Whom I have  
"sent unto you for the same purpose, that  
"ye might know our affairs, and that he  
"might comfort your hearts ‡."

Colos. ch. iv. ver. 8. "Whom I have  
"sent unto you for the same purpose, that  
"he might know your estate, and comfort  
"your hearts §."

In these examples, we do not perceive a  
cento of phrases gathered from one compo-

\* Ephes. chap. v. ver. 19. Ύμνοις και ὕμνοις και ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς ᾄδοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ Κυρίῳ.

† Colos. ch. iii. ver. 16. Ύμνοις και ὕμνοις και ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ἢ χαρὶς ᾄδοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ Κυρίῳ.

‡ Ephes. ch. vi. ver. 22. Οὐ ἐπεμψα πρὸς ὑμᾶς πρὸς αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ἵνα γνῶτε τὰ περὶ ἡμῶν, και παρακαλῆσθαι τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν.

§ Colos. ch. iv. ver. 8. Οὐ ἐπεμψα πρὸς ὑμᾶς πρὸς αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ἵνα γνῶτε τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν, και παρακαλῆσθαι τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν.

sition, and strung together in the other ; but the occasional occurrence of the same expression to a mind a second time revolving the same ideas.

2. Whoever writes two letters, or two discourses, nearly upon the same subject, and at no great distance of time, but without any express recollection of what he had written before, will find himself repeating some sentences, in the very order of the words, in which he had already used them ; but he will more frequently find himself employing some principal terms, with the other inadvertently changed, or with the order disturbed by the intermixture of other words and phrases expressive of ideas rising up at the time ; or in many instances repeating not single words, nor yet whole sentences, but parts and fragments of sentences. Of all these varieties the examination of our two epistles will furnish plain examples : and I should rely upon this class of instances more than upon the last ; because, although an impostor might transcribe into a forgery entire sentences and phrases, yet the dislocation of words, the

partial recollection of phrases and sentences, the intermixture of new terms and new ideas with terms and ideas before used, which will appear in the examples that follow, and which are the natural properties of writings produced under the circumstances in which these epistles are represented to have been composed—would not, I think, have occurred to the invention of a forger; nor, if they had occurred, would they have been so easily executed. This studied variation was a refinement in forgery which I believe did not exist; or, if we can suppose it to have been practised in the instances adduced below, why, it may be asked, was not the same art exercised upon those which we have collected in the preceding class?

Ephes. ch. i. ver. 19, ch. ii. ver. 5. "Towards  
 " us who believe according to the working  
 " of his mighty power which he wrought  
 " in Christ, when he raised him from the  
 " dead (and set him at his own right hand,  
 " in the heavenly places, far above all prin-  
 " cipality, and power, and might, and domi-  
 " nion, and every name that is named, not  
 " only in this world, but in that which is  
 " to

“ to come. And hath put all things under  
 “ his feet; and gave him to be the head  
 “ over all things, to the church, which is his  
 “ body, the fulness of all things that filleth  
 “ all in all): and you hath he quickened,  
 “ who were dead in trespasses and sins  
 “ (wherein in time past ye walked according  
 “ to the course of this world, according to  
 “ the prince of the power of the air, the  
 “ spirit that now worketh in the children  
 “ of disobedience; among whom also we  
 “ had all our conversation, in times past, in  
 “ the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires  
 “ of the flesh and of the mind, and were by  
 “ nature the children of wrath, even as  
 “ others. But God, who is rich in mercy,  
 “ for his great love wherewith he loved us),  
 “ even when we were dead in sins, hath  
 “ quickened us together with Christ\*.”

Colof. ch. ii. ver. 12, 13. “Through the  
 “ faith of the operation of God, who hath

\* Ephes. ch. i. ver. 19, 20; ii. 1. 5. Τους σπντινοντας καλῶς  
 τὴν ἐνερῖαν τοῦ κρῆλου τῆς ἰσχυρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἣν ἐνερῖαν ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ,  
 ἐργασίας αὐτοῦ ἐκ νεκρῶν καὶ ἐκ ἀδυσίας ἐν δεξιᾷ αὐτοῦ ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις—  
 καὶ ὑμᾶς οὖτως νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασι καὶ ταῖς ἀμαρτίαις—καὶ  
 ὅλῃς ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασι, συνζωοποίησα τῷ Χρ. τῷ.

“ raised

“ raised him from the dead, and you being  
 “ dead in your sins and the uncircumcision  
 “ of the flesh, hath he quickened together  
 “ with him\*.”

Out of the long quotation from the Ephesians, take away the parentheses, and you have left a sentence almost in terms the same as the short quotation from the Colossians. The resemblance is more visible in the original than in our translation; for what is rendered in one place the “working,” and in another the “operation,” is the same Greek term *εργεια*; in one place it is, *τους πιστευοντας κατα την ενεργειαν*; in the other, *δια της πνευματος της ενεργειας*. Here therefore we have the same sentiment, and nearly in the same words; but, in the Ephesians, twice broken or interrupted by incidental thoughts, which St. Paul, as his manner was, enlarges upon by the way †, and then returns to the thread of his discourse. It is interrupted the first time by a view which

\* Colof. ch. ii. 12, 13. *Δια της πνευματος της ενεργειας του Θεου του υγιαινοντος αυτον εκ των νεκρων. Και υμας νεκρους οντας εν ταις παραπτωμασι και τη ακροβυσια της σαρκος υμων, συνεζωοποιησε σην εστην.*

† Vide Locke, in loc.

breaks in upon his mind of the exaltation of Christ; and the second time by a description of heathen depravity. I have only to remark that Griesbach, in his very accurate edition, gives the parentheses very nearly in the same manner, in which they are here placed; and that without any respect to the comparison, which we are proposing.

Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 2—4. “With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace, there is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling\*.”

Colos. ch. iii. ver. 12—15. “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another; if any man have a quarrel against

\* Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 2—4. *Μίλα παση ταπεινοφροσυνη και πραοτης, μελα μακροθυμιας, ανιχομενοι αλληλων εν αγαπη, σπουδαζοντες τηρειν την ενωτητα του πνευματος εν τη συνδιαμνη της ιερης: εν σωμα και εν πνευμα, καθως και κληθητε εν μια ελπιδι της κλησεως υμων.*

“any,

“ any, even as Christ forgave you, so also  
 “ do ye; and, above all these things, put on  
 “ charity, which is the bond of perfectness;  
 “ and let the peace of God rule in your  
 “ hearts, to the which also ye are called in  
 “ one body\*.”

In these two quotations the words ταπεινοφροσυνη, πραοτης, μακροθυμια, ανεχομενοι αλληλων, occur in exactly the same order; αγαπη is also found in both, but in a different connection: συνδεσμος της ειρηνης answers to συνδεσμος της τελειοτητος; εκληθητε εν ενι σωματι to εν σωμα καθως και εκληθητε εν μια ελπιδι; yet is this similitude found in the midst of sentences otherwise very different.

Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 16. “ From whom the  
 “ whole body fitly joined together, and  
 “ compacted by that which every joint sup-  
 “ plieth, according to the effectual working

\* Colos. ch. iii. ver. 12—15, Ενδυσασθε ουν, ως εκλεκτοι του Θεου αγιοι και ηγαπημενοι, σπλαγχνα οικτιρων, χρηστοτητα, ταπεινοφροσυνη, πραοτητα, μακροθυμια\* ανεχομενοι αλληλων, και χαριζομενοι εαυτοις, ιαν τις προς τινα εχη μωμην\* καθως και ο Χριστος εχαρισατο υμιν, ουτω και υμεις\* επι πασι δε τουτοις την αγαπην, ητις ητις συνδεσμος της τελειοτητος\* και η ειρηνη του Θεου βραβευντω η τας καρδιας υμων, εις ην και εκληθητε εν ενι σωματι.

“ in



“ in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body\*.”

Col. ch. ii. ver. 19. “ From which all the body, by joints and bands, having nourishment ministered and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God †.”

In these quotations are read ἐξ ου παν το σωμα συμβιβάζομενον in both places, επιχορηγούμενον answering to επιχορηγίας; δια των αφων το δια πασης αφης; αυξει την αυξησιν το ποιειται την αυξησιν; and yet the sentences are considerably diversified in other parts.

Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 32. “ And be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake, hath forgiven you ‡.”

Colos. ch. iii. ver. 13. “ Forbearing one another and forgiving one another; if any

\* Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 16, Εξ ου παν το σωμα συναρμολογούμενον και συμβιβάζομενον δια πασης αφης της επιχορηγίας και ενεργίας εις μέλη ικος εκαστου μερους την αυξησιν του σωματος ποιειται.

† Colos. ch. ii. ver. 19. Εξ ου παν το σωμα δια των αφων και συνδισμων επιχορηγούμενον και συμβιβάζομενον, αυξει την αυξησιν του Θεου.

‡ Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 32. Γινεσθε δε εις αλληλους χρηστοι, ευσπλαγχοι, χαριζομενοι ιαυτοις, καθως και ο Θεος εις Χριστον ιχαρισατο υμιν.

“ man have a quarrel against any, even as  
 “ Christ forgave you, so also do ye\*.”

Here we have “forgiving on another;  
 “ even as God, for Christ’s sake (ἐν Χριστῷ);  
 “ hath forgiven you,” in the first quotation,  
 substantially repeated in the second. But  
 in the second the sentence is broken by the  
 interposition of a new clause, “ if any man  
 “ have a quarrel against any :” and the lat-  
 ter part is a little varied ; instead of “ God  
 in Christ,” it is “ Christ hath forgiven ye.”

Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 22—24. “ That ye put  
 “ off concerning the former conversation  
 “ the old man, which is corrupt according  
 “ to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in  
 “ the spirit of your mind ; and that ye put  
 “ on the new man, which, after God, is cre-  
 “ ated in righteousness and true holiness †.”

\* Colos. ch. iii. ver. 13. *Ἀνέχμενοι ἀλλήλων, καὶ χαρίζομεθα ἑαυτοῖς, ὡς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς ἡμεῖς ἑαυτῶν, ὅτι καὶ ἡμεῖς.*

† Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 22—24. *Ἀποθίσειτε ὑμεῖς κατὰ τὴν προτέραν ἀνατροφὴν, τοὶ παλαιοὶ ἄνθρωποι τοὶ φθειρομένοι κατὰ τὰς ἐπιθυμίας τῆς σαρκὸς· ἀνανεοῦσθαι δὲ τῷ πνεύματι τῶν ὁσίων ὑμῶν, καὶ ἀνδύσασθαι τοὺς καὶνούς ἄνθρωπους, τοὺς κατὰ Θεοῦ ἐκτισθέντας ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ὁσιότητι τῆς ἀληθείας.*

Colof. ch. iii. ver. 9, 10. "Seeing that  
 "ye have put off the old man with his  
 "deeds, and have put on the new man,  
 "which is renewed in knowledge, after the  
 "image of him that created him \*."

In these quotations, "putting off the old  
 "man, and putting on the new," appears in  
 both. The idea is farther explained by  
 calling it a renewal; in the one, "renewed  
 "in the spirit of your mind;" in the other,  
 "renewed in knowledge." In both, the  
 new man is said to be formed according to  
 the same model; in the one, he is, "after  
 "God created in righteousness and true  
 "holiness;" in the other, "he is renewed  
 "after the image of him that created him."  
 In a word, it is the same person writing  
 upon a kindred subject, with the terms and  
 ideas which he had before employed still  
 floating in his memory †

Ephes.

\* Colof. ch. iii. ver. 9, 10. Απεκδυσαμενοι τον παλαιον  
 ανθρωπον συν ταϊς πραξεϊσι αυτου και ενδυσαμενοι τον νεον τον ανα-  
 κεινουμενον εις επιγνωσιν κατ' εικονα του κτισαντος αυτου.

† In these comparisons, we often perceive the reason,  
 why the writer, though expressing the same idea, uses a  
 different term; namely, because the term before used is  
 employed

Ephes. ch. v. ver. 6—8. “*Because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience : be not ye therefore partakers with them ; for ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord ; walk therefore as children of light \**”

Colos. ch. iii. ver. 6—8. “*For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience ; in the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them ; but now you also put off all these †.*”

These verses afford a specimen of that *partial* resemblance which is only to be met with when no imitation is designed, when no studied recollection is employed, but when the mind, exercised upon the same

employed in the sentence under a different form : thus, in the quotations under our eye, the new man is *καινος ανθρωπος* in the Ephesians, and *τον νουν* in the Colossians ; but then it is because *τον καινον* is used in the next word, *ανακαινούμενον*.

\* Ephes. ch. v. ver. 6—8. *Δια ταυτα γαρ αρχιται η οργη του Θεου επι τους υιους της απειθειας. Μη ουν γινεσθε συμμετοχοι αυτων. Ητε γαρ ποτε σκόλος, νυν δε φως εν Κυριω ως τέκνα φωτος περιπατεϊτε.*

† Colos. ch. iii. ver. 6—8. *Δι' α αρχιται η οργη του Θεου επι τους υιους της απειθειας, εν ος και υμεις περιπατησατε ποτε ετι ζης εν αυτοις. Νυν δε αποθεσθε και υμεις τα παντα.*

subject,

subject, is left to the spontaneous return of such terms and phrases, as, having been used before, may happen to present themselves again. The sentiment of both passages is throughout alike: half of that sentiment, the denunciation of God's wrath, is expressed in identical words; the other half, viz, the admonition to quit their former conversation, in words entirely different.

Ephes. ch. v. ver. 15, 16. "See then that ye walk circumspectly; not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time\*."

Colos. ch. iv. ver. 5. "Walk in wisdom towards them that are without, redeeming the time†."

This is another example of that mixture which we remarked of sameness and variety in the language of one writer. "Redeeming the time" (*εξαγοραζομενοι τον καιρον*) is a literal repetition. "Walk not as fools, but as wise" (*περιπατειτε μη ως ασοφοι αλλ' ως σοφοι*) answers exactly in sense, and nearly in

\* Ephes. ch. v. ver. 15, 16. Βλεπει ουι πως ακριβως περιπατει· μη ως ασοφοι αλλ' ως σοφοι, εξαγοραζομενοι τον καιρον.

† Colos. ch. iv. ver. 5. Ει σοφια περιπατειτε προς τους εξω, τον καιρον εξαγοραζετε.

Q

terms,

terms, to “walk in wisdom” (εν σοφία περιπατεῖτε). Περιπατεῖτε ακριβως is a very different phrase, but is intended to convey precisely the same idea as περιπατεῖτε προς τους εξω : ακριβως is not well rendered “circumspectly.” It means what in modern speech we should call “correctly;” and when we advise a person to behave “correctly,” our advice is always given with a reference to “the opinion of others,” προς τους εξω. “Walk correctly, redeeming the time,” i. e. suiting yourselves to the difficulty and ticklishness of the times in which we live, “because the days are “evil.”

Ephes. ch. vi. ver. 19, 20. “And (pray ing) for me that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds, that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak\*.”

\* Ephes. ch. vi. ver. 19, 20. Και υπερ μου, ινα μοι δοθῃ λογος εν ανοιξει του στοματος μου εν παρρησια, γνωρισαι το μυστηριον του ευαγγελιου, υπερ ου πιστευω εν αλυσει, ινα εν αυτω παρρησιασθωμαι, ας δει με λαλησαι.

Colos.

Colof. ch. iv. ver. 3, 4. "Withal praying  
 " also for us, that God would open unto  
 " us a door of utterance to speak the mystery  
 " of Christ, for which I am also in bonds,  
 " that I may make it manifest as I ought to  
 " speak\*."

In these quotations, the phrase "as I ought  
 " to speak" (ως δει με λαλησαι), the words  
 "utterance" (λογος), "mystery" (μυστηριον),  
 "open" (ανοιξη and εν ανοιξει), are the same.  
 "To make known the mystery of the Gos-  
 "pel" (γνωρισαι το μυστηριον), answers to  
 "make it manifest" (ινα φανερωσω αυτο);  
 "for which I am an ambassador in bonds"  
 (υπερ ου πρεσβευω εν αλυσει), to "for which  
 "I am also in bonds" (δι ο και δεδεμαι).

Ephes. ch. v. ver. 22. "Wives, submit  
 " yourselves to your own husbands, as unto the  
 " Lord, for the husband is the head of the  
 " wife, even as Christ is the head of the  
 " church, and he is the saviour of the body.  
 " Therefore, as the church is subject unto

\* Colof. ch. iv. ver. 3, 4. Προσυχουμενοι αμα και σπει ημων,  
 ινα ο Θεος ανοιξη ημιν θυραν του λογου, λαλησαι το μυστηριον του Χριστου  
 δι ο και δεδεμαι ινα φανερωσω αυτο, ως δει με λαλησαι.

“ Christ, so let the wives be to their own  
 “ husbands in every thing. *Husbands, love*  
 “ *your wives*, even as Christ also loved the  
 “ church, and gave himself for it, that he  
 “ might sanctify and cleanse it with the  
 “ washing of water by the word ; that he  
 “ might present it to himself a glorious  
 “ church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any  
 “ such thing ; but that it should be holy and  
 “ without blemish. So ought men to love  
 “ their wives as their own bodies. He that  
 “ loveth his wife, loveth himself ; for no  
 “ man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nou-  
 “ risheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord  
 “ the church ; for we are members of his  
 “ body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For  
 “ this cause shall a man leave his father and  
 “ his mother, and be joined unto his wife,  
 “ and they two shall be one flesh. This is  
 “ a great mystery ; but I speak concerning  
 “ Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let  
 “ every one of you, in particular, so love  
 “ his wife even as himself ; and the wife see  
 “ that she reverence her husband. *Children,*  
 “ *obey your parents in the Lord, for this is*  
 “ *right.* Honour thy father and thy mo-  
 “ ther



“ther (which is the first commandment  
 “with promise), that it may be well with  
 “thee, and that thou mayest live long on  
 “the earth. *And, ye fathers, provoke not your*  
 “*children to wrath*, but bring them up in  
 “the nurture and admonition of the Lord.  
 “*Servants, be obedient to them that are your*  
 “*masters according to the flesh, with fear and*  
 “*trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto*  
 “*Christ; not with eye service, as men pleasers,*  
 “*but as the servants of Christ, doing the will*  
 “*of God from the heart, with good will doing*  
 “*service, as to the Lord, and not to men;*  
 “*knowing that whatsoever good thing any man*  
 “*doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord,*  
 “*whether he be bond or free.* And, yemasters,  
 “do the same things unto them, forbearing  
 “threatening; *knowing that your master also*  
 “*is in heaven*, neither is there respect of  
 “persons with him\*.”

† Colof. ch. iii. ver. 18. “Wives, submit  
 “yourself unto your own husbands, as it  
 “is

\* Ephes. ch. v. ver. 22. Αἱ γυναῖκες, τοῖς ἰδοῖς ἀνδράσιν  
 ὑποτάσσεσθε, ὡς τῷ Κυρίῳ.

† Colof. ch. iii. ver. 18. Αἱ γυναῖκες, ὑποτάσσεσθε τοῖς ἰδοῖς  
 ἀνδράσιν, ὡς αὐτῷ ἐν Κυρίῳ.

“ is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your  
 “ wives, and be not bitter against them.  
 “ Children, obey your parents in all things,  
 “ for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.  
 “ Fathers, provoke not your children to an-  
 “ ger, lest they be discouraged. Servants,  
 “ obey in all things your masters according  
 “ to the flesh ; not with eye service, as men  
 “ pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing

Ephes. Οι ανδρες αγαπατε τας γυναικας ιαυτην.

Colos. Οι ανδρες, αγαπατε τας γυναικας.

Ephes. Τα τικια, υπακουετε τοις γονιουσιν υμων εν Κυριω· τουτο γαρ εστι δικαιον.

Colos. Τα τικια, υπακουετε τοις γονιουσιν κατα παντα· τουτο γαρ εστι ιναρισεν τη Κυριω.

Ephes. Και οι πατερεις, μη παροργιζετε τα τικια υμων.

Colos. Οι πατερεις μη \* εριδιζετε τα τικια υμων.

Ephes. Οι δουλοι, υπακουετε τοις κυριοις κατα σαρκα, μετὰ φοβου και τρομου, εν απλοτη της καρδιας υμων, ως τη Χριτω· μη κατ' οφθαλμοδουλειαν ως ανθρωπαρισκοι, αλλ' ως δουλοι του Χριστου, ποιουντες το θελημα του Θεου εκ ψυχης· μετ' ευνοιας δουλευοντες τη Κυριω, και ουκ ανθρωποις· ιδετε οτι εαν τι κακος ποιηση αγαθον, τουτο κομμιται παρα του Κυριου, ειτε δουλος, ειτε ελευθερος.

Colos. Οι δουλοι, υπακουετε κατὰ παντα τοις κατὰ σαρκα κυριοις, μη εν οφθαλμοδουλειαις, ως ανθρωπαρισκοι, αλλ' εν απλοτη καρδιας, φοβουμνοι τον Θεον· και παν ε, τι εαν ποιητε, εκ ψυχης εργασιθε, ως τη Κυριω, και ουκ ανθρωποις, ιδετε οτι απο Κυριου απληψωθε την ανταποδωσιν της αληρονομιας· τη γαρ Κυριω Χριτω δουλειτε.

\* παροργιζετε, lectio non spernenda, GRIESBACH.

“ God ; and whatever ye do, do it heartily,  
 “ as to the Lord, and not unto men, know-  
 “ ing that of the Lord ye shall receive the  
 “ reward of the inheritance, for ye serve  
 “ the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong  
 “ shall receive for the wrong which he hath  
 “ done ; and there is no respect of persons.  
 “ Masters, give unto your servants that  
 “ which is just and equal, knowing that ye  
 “ also have a master in heaven.”

The passages marked by Italics in the quotation from the Ephesians, bear a strict resemblance, not only in signification but in terms, to the quotation from the Colossians. Both the words and the order of the words are in many clauses a duplicate of one another. In the epistle to the Colossians, these passages are laid together ; in that to the Ephesians, they are divided by intermediate matter, especially by a long digressive allusion to the mysterious union between Christ and his church ; which possessing, as Mr. Locke hath well observed, the mind of the apostle, from being an incidental thought, grows up into the principal subject. The affinity between these two passages in signification, in terms,

and in the order of the words, is cloſer than can be pointed out between any parts of any two epiſtles in the volume.

If the reader would ſee how the ſame ſubject is treated by a different hand, and how diſtinguiſhable it is from the production of the ſame pen, let him turn to the ſecond and third chapters of the firſt epiſtle of St. Peter. The duties of ſervants, of wives and of huſbands, are enlarged upon in that epiſtle, as they are in the Epiſtle to the Ephesians; but the ſubjects both occur in a different order, and the train of ſentiment ſubjoined to each is totally unlike.

3. In two letters iſſuing from the ſame perſon, nearly at the ſame time, and upon the ſame general occaſion, we may expect to trace the influence of aſſociation in the order in which the topics follow one another. Certain ideas univerſally or uſually ſuggeſt others. Here the order is what we call natural, and from ſuch an order nothing can be concluded. But when the order is arbitrary, yet alike, the concurrence indicates the effect of that principle, by which ideas, which have been once joined, commonly

monly revisit the thoughts together. The epistles under consideration furnish the two following remarkable instances of this species of agreement :

Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 24. “ And that ye put  
“ on the new man, which after God is cre-  
“ ated in righteousness and true holiness;  
“ wherefore, putting away lying, speak  
“ every man truth with his neighbour, for  
“ we are members one of another\*.”

Colos. ch. iii. ver. 9. “ Lie not one to  
“ another ; seeing that ye have put off the  
“ old man, with his deeds ; and have put  
“ on the new man, which is renewed in  
“ knowledge †.”

The vice of “ lying,” or a correction of that vice, does not seem to bear any nearer relation to the “ putting on the new man,” than a reformation in any other article of

\* Ephes. ch. iv. ver. 24, 25. Και ενδυσασθαι τον καινον ανθρωπον, τον καλα Θεον κτισθεντα εν δικαιοσυνη και οσιότητι της αληθειας\* διο αποκειμενοι το ψευδος, λαλειτε αληθειαν αγαπ\* μετα τη πλησισι αυτου\* οτι εσμεν αλληλων μελη.

† Colos. ch. iii. ver. 9. Μη ψευδισθε εις αλληλους, αποκδυσαμειν τον παλαιον ανθρωπον, συνταις αρχαισι αυτου, και ενδυσαμειν τον νεον, τον αινακατασκευασμενον εις επιγνωσιν

morals.

morals. Yet these two ideas, we see, stand in both epistles in immediate connection.

Ephes. ch. v. ver. 20, 21. " Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ; submitting yourselves one to another, in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord \*."

Colos. ch. iii. ver. 17. " Whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord †."

In both these passages, submission follows giving of thanks, without any similitude in the ideas which should account for the transition.

\* Ephes. ch. v. ver. 20—22. Ευχαριστούμεν πάντοτε ὑπὲρ πάντων, ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, τῷ Θεῷ καὶ πατρί, ὑποτάσσομενοι ἀλλήλοις ἐν φόβῳ Θεοῦ. Αἱ γυναῖκες, τοῖς ἰδίοις ἀνδράσιν ὑποτάσσεσθε, ὡς τῷ Κυρίῳ.

† Colos. ch. iii. ver. 17. Καὶ ὅ, τι ἂν ποιήτε, ἐν λόγῳ, ἢ ἐν ᾠγῇ, πάντα ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, εὐχαριστοῦντες τῷ Θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ δι' αὐτοῦ. Αἱ γυναῖκες, ὑποτάσσεσθε τοῖς ἰδίοις ἀνδράσιν, ὡς αἰτεῖται ἐν Κυρίῳ.

It is not necessary to pursue the comparison between the two epistles farther. The argument which results from it stands thus: No two other epistles contain a circumstance which indicates that they were written at the same, or nearly at the same time. No two other epistles exhibit so many marks of correspondency and resemblance. If the original which we ascribe to these two epistles be the true one, that is, if they were both really written by St. Paul, and both sent to their respective destination by the same messenger, the similitude is, in all points, what should be expected to take place. If they were forgeries, then the mention of Tychicus in both epistles, and in a manner which shews that he either carried or accompanied both epistles, was inserted for the purpose of accounting for their similitude; or else the structure of the epistles was designedly adapted to that circumstance; or, lastly, the conformity between the contents of the forgeries, and what is thus indirectly intimated concerning their date, was only a happy accident. Not one of these three suppositions will gain credit

credit with a reader who peruses the epistles with attention, and who reviews the several examples we have pointed out, and the observations with which they were accompanied.

## No. II.

There is such a thing as a peculiar word or phrase cleaving, as it were, to the memory of a writer or speaker, and presenting itself to his utterance at every turn. When we observe this, we call it a *cant* word, or a *cant* phrase. It is a natural effect of habit; and would appear more frequently than it does, had not the rules of good writing taught the ear to be offended with the iteration of the same sound, and oftentimes caused us to reject, on that account, the word which offered itself first to our recollection. With a writer who, like St. Paul, either knew not these rules, or disregarded them, such words will not be avoided. The truth is, an example of this kind runs through several of his epistles, and in the epistle before us *abounds*; and that is in the word *riches* (*πλουτος*,) used metaphorically as an augmentative



mentative of the idea to which it happens to be subjoined. Thus, "the *riches* of his glory," "his *riches* in glory," "*riches* of the glory of his inheritance," "*riches* of the glory of this mystery," Rom. ch. ix. ver. 23, Ephes. ch. iii. ver. 16, Ephes. ch. i. ver. 18, Colos. ch. i. ver. 27; "*riches* of his grace," twice in the Ephesians, ch. i. ver. 7, and ch. ii. ver. 7; "*riches* of the full assurance of understanding," Colos. ch. ii. ver. 2; "*riches* of his goodness," Rom. ch. ii. ver. 4; "*riches* of the wisdom of God," Rom. ch. xi. ver. 33; "*riches* of Christ," Ephes. ch. iii. ver. 8. In a like sense the adjective. Rom. ch. x. ver. 12, "*rich* unto all that call upon him;" Ephes. ch. ii. ver. 4, "*rich* in mercy;" 1 Tim. ch. vi. ver. 18, "*rich* in good works." Also the adverb, Colos. ch. iii. ver. 16, "let the word of Christ dwell in you *richly*." This figurative use of the word, though so familiar to St. Paul, does not occur in any part of the New Testament, except once in the epistle of St. James, ch. ii. ver. 5. "Hath not God chosen the *poor* of 'this world, *rich* in faith?" where it is manifestly suggested by the antithesis. I propose

pose the frequent, yet seemingly unaffected use of this phrase, in the epistle before us, as one internal mark of its genuineness.

### No. III.

There is another singularity in St. Paul's style, which, wherever it is found, may be deemed a badge of authenticity ; because, if it were noticed, it would not, I think, be imitated, inasmuch as it almost always produces embarrassment and interruption in the reasoning. This singularity is a species of digression which may probably, I think, be denominated *going off at a word*. It is turning aside from the subject upon the occurrence of some particular word, forsaking the train of thought then in hand, and entering upon a parenthetical sentence in which that word is the prevailing term. I shall lay before the reader some examples of this, collected from the other epistles, and then propose two examples of it which are found in the epistle to the Ephesians. 2 Cor. ch. ii. ver. 14, at the word *savour* : “ Now  
“ thanks be unto God, which always causeth  
“ us to triumph in Christ, and maketh ma-  
“ nifest

“ nifest the *savour* of his knowledge by us  
 “ in every place (for we are unto God a  
 “ sweet *savour* of Christ, in them that are  
 “ saved, and in them that perish; to the  
 “ one we are the *savour* of death unto death,  
 “ and to the other the *savour* of life unto  
 “ life; and who is sufficient for these things?)  
 “ For we are not as many which corrupt the  
 “ word of God, but as of sincerity, but as  
 “ of God; in the sight of God speak we in  
 “ Christ.” Again, 2 Cor. ch. iii. ver. 1, at  
 the word *epistle*. “ Need we, as some others,  
 “ *epistles* of commendation to you, or of  
 “ commendation from you? (ye are our  
 “ *epistle*, written in our hearts, known and  
 “ read of all men; forasmuch as ye are ma-  
 “ nifestly declared to be the *epistle* of Christ,  
 “ ministered by us, written not with ink,  
 “ but with the spirit of the living God; not  
 “ in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables  
 “ of the heart.” The position of the words  
 in the original, shews more strongly than  
 in the translation that it was the occurrence  
 of the word *επιστολη* which gave birth to  
 the sentence that follows: 2 Cor. chap. iii.  
 ver. 1. Εἰ μὴ χρηζόμεν, ὡς τινες, συστατικῶν  
ἐπιστολῶν

επιστολὴν πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἡ ἐξ ὑμῶν συστατικὴ ;  
 ἡ ἐπιστολὴ ἡμῶν ὑμεῖς ἐσε, ἐγγεγραμμένη ἐν ταῖς  
 καρδίαις ἡμῶν, γινωσκομένη καὶ ἀναγινωσκομένη  
 ὑπὸ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, φανερούμενοι ὅτι ἐσε ἐπι-  
 στολὴ Χριστοῦ διακονηθεῖσα ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ἐγγεγραμ-  
 μένη ἔμμελανι, ἀλλὰ πνευματὶ Θεοῦ ζῶντος· ἔκ-  
 ἐν πλάξιν λιθίναις, ἀλλ' ἐν πλάξιν καρδίας σαρκι-  
 ναῖς.

Again, 2 Cor. ch. iii. ver. 12, &c. at the word *vail*: “ Seeing then that we have such  
 “ hope, we use great plainness of speech :  
 “ and not as Moses, which put a *vail* over  
 “ his face, that the children of Israel could  
 “ not steadfastly look to the end of that  
 “ which is abolished. But their minds were  
 “ blinded ; for until this day remaineth the  
 “ same *vail* untaken away in the reading of  
 “ the Old Testament, which *vail* is done  
 “ away in Christ ; but even unto this day,  
 “ when Moses is read, the *vail* is upon their  
 “ heart : nevertheless, when it shall turn to  
 “ the Lord, the *vail* shall be taken away  
 “ (now the Lord is that spirit ; and where  
 “ the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty).  
 “ But we all, with open face, beholding as  
 “ in a glass the glory of the Lord, are  
 “ changed

“ changed into the same image from glory  
 “ to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord.  
 “ Therefore, seeing we have this ministry, as  
 “ we have received mercy, we faint not.”

Who sees not that this whole allegory of the *vail* arises entirely out of the occurrence of the word, in telling us that “ Moses put  
 “ a *vail* over his face,” and that it drew the apostle away from the proper subject of his discourse, the dignity of the office in which he was engaged : which subject he fetches up again almost in the words with which he had left it ; “ therefore, seeing we have  
 “ this ministry, as we have received mercy,  
 “ we faint not.” The sentence which he had before been going on with, and in which he had been interrupted by the *vail*, was,  
 “ seeing then that we have such hope, we  
 “ use great plainness of speech.”

In the epistle to the Ephesians, the reader will remark two instances, in which the same habit of composition obtains ; he will recognize the same pen. One he will find, chap. iv. ver. 8—11, at the word *ascended* :  
 “ Wherefore he saith, When he *ascended* up  
 “ on high, he led captivity captive, and gave  
 R “ gifts

“ gifts unto men. (Now that he *ascended*,  
 “ what is it but that he also descended first  
 “ unto the lower parts of the earth ? He  
 “ that descended is the same also that *ascended*  
 “ up far above all heavens, that he might  
 “ fill all things.) And he gave some,  
 “ apostles,” &c.

The other appears, chap. v. ver. 12—15,  
 at the word *light* : “ For it is a shame even  
 “ to speak of those things which are done  
 “ of them in secret : but all things that are  
 “ reprov'd, are made manifest by the *light* ;  
 “ (for whatsoever doth make manifest, is  
 “ *light* ; wherefore he saith, Awake, thou  
 “ that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and  
 “ Christ shall give thee *light*) : see then  
 “ that ye walk circumspectly.”

#### No. IV.

Although it does not appear to have ever  
 been disputed that the epistle before us was  
 written by St. Paul, yet it is well known  
 that a doubt has long been entertained  
 concerning the persons to whom it was ad-  
 dressed. The question is founded partly in  
 some

some ambiguity in the external evidence. Marcion, a heretic of the second century, as quoted by Tertullion, a father in the beginning of the third, calls it the epistle to the Laodiceans. From what we know of Marcion, his judgment is little to be relied upon ; nor is it perfectly clear that Marcion was rightly understood by Tertullion. If, however, Marcion be brought to prove that some copies in his time gave *εν Λαοδικεία* in the superscription, his testimony, if it be truly interpreted, is not diminished by his heresy ; for, as Grotius observes, “ *cur meâ re mentiretur nihil erat casuæ.*” The name *εν Εφεσω*, in the first verse, upon which word singly depends the proof that the epistle was written to the Ephesians, is not read in all the manuscripts now extant. I admit, however, that the external evidence preponderates with a manifest excess on the side of the received reading. The objection therefore principally arises from the contents of the epistle itself, which, in many respects, militate with the supposition that it was written to the church of Ephesus. According to the history, St. Paul had passed two

whole years at Ephesus, Acts, chap. xix. ver. 10. And in this point, viz. of St. Paul having preached for a considerable length of time at Ephesus, the history is confirmed by the two epistles to the Corinthians, and by the two epistles to Timothy; "I will tarry  
 "at *Ephesus* unto Pentecost," 1 Cor. ch. xvi. ver. 8. "We would not have you ignorant  
 "of our trouble which came to us in *Asia*," 2 Cor. ch. i. ver. 8: "As I besought thee  
 "to abide still at *Ephesus*, when I went into  
 "Macedonia," 1 Tim. ch. i. ver. 3. "And  
 "in how many things he ministered to me  
 "at *Ephesus* thou knowest well," 2 Tim. ch. i. ver. 18. I adduce these testimonies, because, had it been a competition of credit between the history and the epistle, I should have thought myself bound to have preferred the epistle. Now, every epistle which St. Paul wrote to churches, which he himself had founded, or which he had visited, abounds with references, and appeals to what had passed during the time that he was present amongst them; whereas there is not a text in the epistle to the Ephesians, from which we can collect that he had ever been  
 at



at Ephesus at all. The two epistles to the Corinthians, the epistle to the Galatians, the epistle to the Philippians, and the two epistles to the Thessalonians, are of this class; and they are full of allusions to the apostle's history, his reception, and his conduct, whilst amongst them; the total want of which, in the epistle before us, is very difficult to account for, if it was in truth written to the church of Ephesus, in which city he had resided for so long a time. This is the first and strongest objection. But farther, the epistle to the Colossians was addressed to a church, in which St. Paul had never been. This we infer from the first verse of the second chapter: "For I would that ye knew  
 " what great conflict I have for you and for  
 " them at Laodicea, and for as many as have  
 " not seen my face in the flesh." There could be no propriety in thus joining the Colossians and Laodiceans with those "who  
 " had not seen his face in the flesh," if they did not also belong to the same description\*.

\* Dr. Lardner contends against the validity of this conclusion; but, I think, without success. LARDNER, Vol. XIV. p. 473, edit. 1757.

Now, his address to the Colossians, whom he had not visited, is precisely the same as his address to the Christians, to whom he wrote in the epistle, which we are now considering: "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, *since we heard of your faith* in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints," Col. ch. i. ver. 3. Thus he speaks to the Colossians, in the epistle before us, as follows: "Wherefore I also, *after I heard of your faith* in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you in my prayers," chap. i. ver. 15. The terms of this address are observable. The words "having *heard* of your faith and love," are the very words, we see, which he uses towards strangers; and it is not probable that he should employ the same in addressing a church in which he had long exercised his ministry, and whose "faith and love" he must have personally known\*. The epistle to the Romans was written

\* Mr. Locke endeavours to avoid this difficulty, by explaining "*their faith*, of which St. Paul had heard,"

written before St. Paul had been at Rome ; and his address to them runs in the same strain with that just now quoted : “ I thank  
 “ my God, through Jesus Christ, for you  
 “ all, that your faith is *spoken* of throughout  
 “ the whole world.” Rom. chap. i. ver. 8. Let us now see what was the form in which our apostle was accustomed to introduce his epistles, when he wrote to those with whom he was already acquainted. To the Corinthians it was this: “ I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God  
 “ which is given you by Christ Jesus,” 1 Cor. ch. i. ver. 4. To the Philippians : “ I thank my God upon every remembrance  
 “ of you,” Phil. ch. i. ver. 3. To the Thessalonians : “ We give thanks to God always  
 “ for you all, making mention of you in

to mean the steadfastness of their persuasion that they were called into the kingdom of God, without subjection to the Mosaic institution. But this interpretation seems to me extremely *hard*; for, in the manner in which faith is here joined with love, in the expression, “ your faith and love,” it could not be meant to denote any particular tenet which distinguished one set of Christians from others; forasmuch as the expression describes the general virtues of the Christian profession. Vide LOCKE in loc.

“ our prayers, remembering without ceasing  
 “ your work of faith, and labour of love,”  
 1 Theff. chap. i. ver. 3. To Timothy :  
 “ I thank God, whom I serve from my fore-  
 “ fathers with pure conscience, that with-  
 “ out ceasing I have remembrance of thee  
 “ in my prayers night and day,” 2 Tim.  
 chap. i. ver. 4. In these quotations, it is  
 usually his *remembrance*, and never his *bear-*  
*ing* of them, which he makes the subject of  
 his thankfulness to God.

As great difficulties stand in the way of  
 supposing the epistle before us to have been  
 written to the church of Ephesus, so I think  
 it probable that it is actually the epistle to  
 the Laodiceans, referred to in the fourth  
 chapter of the epistle to the Colossians. The  
 text which contains that reference is this :  
 “ When this epistle is read among you, cause  
 “ that it be read also in the church of the  
 “ Laodiceans, and that ye likewise read the  
 “ epistle from Laodicea,” chap. iv. ver. 16.  
 The “ epistle *from* Laodicea” was an epistle  
 sent by St. Paul to that church, and by them  
 transmitted to Colosse. The two churches  
 were mutually to communicate the epistles  
 they

they had received. This is the way in which the direction is explained by the greater part of commentators, and is the most probable sense that can be given to it. It is also probable that the epistle alluded to was an epistle which had been received by the church of Laodicea *lately*. It appears then, with a considerable degree of evidence, that there existed an epistle of St. Paul's nearly of the same date with the epistle to the Colossians, and an epistle directed to a church (for such the church of Laodicea was) in which St. Paul had never been. What has been observed concerning the epistle before us, shews that it answers perfectly to that character.

Nor does the mistake seem very difficult to account for. Whoever inspects the map of Asia Minor will see, that a person proceeding from Rome to Laodicea would probably land at Ephesus, as the nearest frequented sea-port in that direction. Might not Tychicus then, in passing through Ephesus, communicate to the Christians of that place the letter, with which he was charged? And might not copies of that letter be multiplied

tiplied and preserved at Ephesus? Might not some of the copies drop the words of designation *εν τη Λαοδικεία*\*, which it was of no consequence to an Ephesian to retain? Might not copies of the letter come out into the Christian church at large from Ephesus; and might not this give occasion to a belief that the letter was written to that church? And, lastly, might not this belief produce

\* And it is remarkable that there seem to have been some ancient copies without the words of designation, either the words in *Ephesus*, or the words in *Laodicea*. St. Basil, a writer of the fourth century, speaking of the present epistle, has this very singular passage: "And writing to the Ephesians, as truly united to him who is through knowledge, he (Paul) calleth them in a peculiar sense *such who are*; saying, *to the saints who are* and (or even) *the faithful in Christ Jesus*; for so those before us have transmitted it, and we have found it in ancient copies." Dr. Mill interprets (and, notwithstanding some objections that have been made to him, in my opinion rightly interprets) these words of Basil, as declaring that this father had seen certain copies of the epistle in which the words "in Ephesus" were wanting. And the passage, I think, must be considered as Basil's fanciful way of explaining what was really a corrupt and defective reading; for I do not believe it possible that the author of the epistle could have originally written *ἀγαπᾶς τοὺς ὁσιν*, without any name of place to follow it.

the

the error which we suppose to have crept into the inscription ?

### No. V.

As our epistle purports to have been written during St. Paul's imprisonment at Rome, which lies beyond the period, to which the Acts of the Apostles brings up his history ; and as we have seen and acknowledged that the epistle contains no reference to any transaction at Ephesus during the apostle's residence in that city, we cannot expect that it should supply many marks of agreement with the narrative. One coincidence however occurs, and a coincidence of that minute and less obvious kind, which, as hath been repeatedly observed, is of all others the most to be relied upon.

Chap. vi. ver. 19, 20, we read, " praying  
 " for me, that I may open my mouth boldly  
 " to make known the mystery of the gospel,  
 " for which I am an ambassador in bonds."  
 " *In bonds,*" *εν αλυσει*, in a *chain*. In the  
 twenty-eighth chapter of the Acts we are in-  
 formed, that Paul, after his arrival at Rome,  
 was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier,  
 that

that kept him. Dr. Lardner has shewn that this mode of custody was in use amongst the Romans, and that whenever it was adopted the prisoner was bound to the soldier by a single chain; in reference to which St. Paul, in the twentieth verse of this chapter, tells the Jews, whom he had assembled, "For this cause therefore have I called for you to see you, and to speak with you, because that for the hope of Israel I am bound *with this chain,*" *την αλυσιν ταυτην περικειμαι.* It is in exact conformity therefore with the truth of St. Paul's situation at the time, that he declares of himself in the epistle, *πρεσβευω εν αλυσει.* And the exactness is the more remarkable, as *αλυσις* (a chain) is no where used in the singular number to express any other kind of custody. When the prisoner's hands or feet were bound together, the word was *δεσμοι* (bonds), as in the twenty-sixth chapter of the Acts, where Paul replies to Agrippa, "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost and altogether such as I am, except *these bonds,*" *παρεπτος των δεσμων τουτων.* When the prisoner

2

was



was confined between two soldiers, as in the case of Peter, Acts, chap. xii. ver. 6, two chains were employed; and it is said, upon his miraculous deliverance, that the "chains" (*αλυσεις*, in the plural) "fell from his hands." *Δεσμος* the noun, and *δεσμι* the verb, being general terms, were applicable to this in common with any other species of personal coercion; but *αλυσεις*, in the singular number, to none but this.

If it can be suspected that the writer of the present epistle, who, in no other particular, appears to have availed himself of the information concerning St. Paul delivered in the Acts, had, in this verse, borrowed the word, which he read in that book, and had adapted his expression to what he found there recorded of St. Paul's treatment at Rome; in short, that the coincidence here noted was effected by craft and design; I think it a strong reply to remark, that, in the parallel passage of the epistle to the Colossians, the same allusion is not preserved: the words there are, "praying also for us, "that God would open unto us a door of "utterance to speak the mystery of Christ,"  
 "for

“ for which *I am also in bonds,*” *δι’ ο καὶ δεσμαι.* After what has been shewn in a preceding number, there can be little doubt but that these two epistles were written by the same person. If the writer, therefore, sought for, and fraudulently inserted, the correspondency into one epistle, why did he not do it in the other? A real prisoner might use either general words which comprehended this amongst many other modes of custody; or might use appropriate words which specified this, and distinguished it from any other mode. It would be accidental which form of expression he fell upon. But an impostor, who had the art, in one place, to employ the appropriate term for the purpose of fraud, would have used it in both places.

## CHAP. VII.

## THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS.

## No. I.

**W**HEN a transaction is referred to in such a manner, as that the reference is easily and immediately understood by those who are beforehand, or from other quarters, acquainted with the fact, but is obscure, or imperfect, or requires investigation, or a comparison of different parts, in order to be made clear to other readers, the transaction so referred to is probably real; because had it been fictitious, the writer would have set forth his story more fully and plainly, not merely as conscious of the fiction, but as conscious that his readers could have no other knowledge of the subject of his allusion than from the information of which he put them in possession.

The

The account of Epaphroditus, in the epistle to the Philippians, of his journey to Rome, and of the business which brought him thither, is the article to which I mean to apply this observation. There are three passages in the epistle which relate to this subject. The first, chap. i. ver. 7, “ Even  
 “ as it is meet for me to think this of you  
 “ all, because I have you in my heart, inas-  
 “ much as both in my bonds, and in the  
 “ defence and confirmation of the gospel,  
 “ ye all are *συγκοινωνοι με της χαριτος*, joint  
 “ contributors to the gift which I have re-  
 “ ceived\*.” Nothing more is said in this place. In the latter part of the second chapter, and at the distance of half the epistle from the last quotation, the subject appears again : “ Yet I supposed it necessary to send  
 “ to you Epaphroditus, my brother and  
 “ companion in labour, and fellow soldier,

\* Pearce, I believe, was the first commentator who gave this sense to the expression ; and I believe also, that his exposition is now generally assented to. He interprets in the same sense the phrase in the fifth verse, which our translation renders, “ your fellowship in the gospel ;” but which in the original is not *κοινωνια του ευαγγελιου*, or, *κοινωνια εν τη ευαγγελια* ; but *κοινωνια εις το ευαγγελιον*.

“ but

“ but your messenger, and *he that ministered*  
 “ *to my wants*: for he longed after you all,  
 “ and was full of heaviness, because that ye  
 “ had heard that he had been sick: for indeed  
 “ he was sick nigh unto death; but God  
 “ had mercy on him, and not on him only,  
 “ but on me also, lest I should have sorrow  
 “ upon sorrow. I sent him therefore the  
 “ more carefully, that when ye see him  
 “ again ye may rejoice, and that I may be  
 “ the less sorrowful. Receive him therefore  
 “ in the Lord with all gladness; and hold  
 “ such in reputation: because for the work  
 “ of Christ he was nigh unto death, not re-  
 “ garding his life *to supply your lack of service*  
 “ *toward me.*” Chap. ii. ver. 25—30. The  
 matter is here dropped, and no farther  
 mention made of it till it is taken up near  
 the conclusion of the epistle as follows:—  
 “ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that  
 “ now at the last your care of me hath  
 “ flourished again; wherein ye were also  
 “ careful, but ye lacked opportunity: not  
 “ that I speak in respect of want; for I have  
 “ learned in whatsoever state I am, there-  
 “ with to be content. I know both how to  
 S “ be

## 258 EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS.

“ be abased, and I know how to abound ;  
 “ every where and in all things I am in-  
 “ structed both to be full and to be hungry ,  
 “ both to abound and to suffer need. I  
 “ can do all things through Christ which  
 “ strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye  
 “ have well done that ye did communicate  
 “ with my affliction. Now ye, Philippians,  
 “ know also that in the beginning of the  
 “ gospel, when I departed from Macedonia,  
 “ no church communicated with me as con-  
 “ cerning giving and receiving, but ye only ;  
 “ for even in Thessalonica ye sent once  
 “ and again unto my necessity: not because  
 “ I desire a gift ; but I desire fruit that may  
 “ abound to your account. But I have all,  
 “ and abound ; I am full, having received  
 “ of Epaphroditus the things which were  
 “ sent from you.” Chap. iv. ver. 10—18.

To the Philippian reader, who knew that  
 contributions were wont to be made in that  
 church for the apostle's subsistence and re-  
 lief, that the supply which they were ac-  
 customed to send to him had been delayed  
 by the want of opportunity, that Epaphrodi-  
 tus had undertaken the charge of conveying  
 their

their liberality to the hands of the apostle, that he had acquitted himself of this commission at the peril of his life, by hastening to Rome under the oppression of a grievous sickness; to a reader who knew all this beforehand, every line in the above quotations would be plain and clear. But how is it with a stranger? The knowledge of these several particulars is necessary to the perception and explanation of the references; yet that knowledge must be gathered from a comparison of passages lying at a great distance from one another. Texts must be interpreted by texts long subsequent to them, which necessarily produces embarrassment and suspense. The passage quoted from the beginning of the epistle contains an acknowledgment, on the part of the apostle, of the liberality which the Philippians had exercised towards him; but the allusion is so general and indeterminate, that had nothing more been said in the sequel of the epistle, it would hardly have been applied to this occasion at all. In the second quotation, Epaphroditus is declared to have "ministered to the apostle's wants,"

and "to have supplied their lack of service " towards him ;" but *how*, that is, at whose expence, or from what fund he " ministered," or what was the "lack of service" which he supplied, are left very much unexplained, till we arrive at the third quotation, where we find that Epaphroditus " ministered to " St. Paul's wants," only by conveying to his hands the contributions of the Philip-  
 pians? " I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from " you : " and that " the lack of service " which he supplied " was a delay or interruption of their accustomed bounty, occasioned by the want of opportunity ; " I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at " the last your care of me hath flourished " again ; wherein ye were also careful, but ye " lacked opportunity." The affair at length comes out clear ; but it comes out by piecemeal. The clearness is the result of the reciprocal illustration of divided texts. Should any one choose therefore to insinuate, that this whole story of Epaphroditus, of his journey, his errand, his sickness, or even his existence, might, for what we know, have



have no other foundation than in the invention of the forger of the epistle; I answer, that a forger would have set forth his story connectedly, and also more fully and more perspicuously. If the epistle be authentic, and the transaction real, then every thing which is said concerning Epaphroditus and his commission, would be clear to those into whose hands the epistle was expected to come. Considering the Philippians as his readers, a person might naturally write upon the subject, as the author of the epistle has written; but there is no supposition of forgery with which it will suit.

## No. II.

The history of Epaphroditus supplies another observation: "Indeed he was sick, nigh unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow." In this passage, no intimation is given that Epaphroditus's recovery was miraculous. It is plainly, I think, spoken of as a natural event. This instance, together

with one in the second epistle to Timothy ("Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick,") affords a proof that the power of performing cures, and, by parity of reason, of working other miracles, was a power which only visited the apostles occasionally, and did not at all depend upon their own will. Paul undoubtedly would have healed Epaphroditus if he could. Nor, if the power of working cures had awaited his disposal, would he have left his fellow traveller at Miletum sick. This, I think, is a fair observation upon the instances adduced; but it is not the observation I am concerned to make. It is more for the purpose of my argument to remark, that forgery, upon such an occasion, would not have spared a miracle; much less would it have introduced St. Paul professing the utmost anxiety for the safety of his friend, yet acknowledging himself unable to help him: which he does almost expressly, in the case of Trophimus, for he "left him sick;" and virtually in the passage before us, in which he felicitates himself upon the recovery of Epaphroditus, in terms which almost ex-

clude the supposition of any supernatural means being employed to effect it. This is a reserve which nothing but truth would have imposed.

### No. III.

Chap. iv. ver. 15, 16. "Now ye, Philip-  
" pians, know also that in the beginning  
" of the gospel, when I departed from Ma-  
" cedonia, no church communicated with  
" me as concerning giving and receiving,  
" but ye only: for even in Thessalonica ye  
" sent once and again unto my necessity."

It will be necessary to state the Greek of this passage, because our translation does not, I think, give the sense of it accurately.

Οἰδατε δε και υμεις, Φιλιππησιοι, οτι εν αρχη τε ευαγγελιου, οτε εξηλθον απο Μακεδονιας, εδε-  
μια μοι εκκλησια εκοινωνησεν εις λογον δοσεως και ληψεως, ει μη υμεις μονοι, οτι και εν Θεσσαλονικη και απαξ και δις εις την χρεαν μοι επεμψατε.

The reader will please to direct his attention to the corresponding particles *οτι* and *οτι και*, which connect the words *εν αρχη τε ευαγγελιου, οτε εξηλθον απο Μακεδονιας*, with the

words *εν Θεσσαλονικη*, and denote, as I interpret the passage, two distinct donations, or rather donations at two distinct periods, one at Thessalonica, *απαξ και δις*, the other *after* his departure from Macedonia, *οτε εξηλθον απο Μακεδονιας*\*. I would render the passage, so as to mark these different periods, thus: “Now ye, Philippians, know also “that in the beginning of the gospel, when “I was departed from Macedonia, no church “communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only; and that “also in Thessalonica ye sent once and again “unto my necessity.” Now with this exposition of the passage compare 2 Cor. chap. xi. ver. 8, 9: “I robbed other churches,

\* Luke, ch. ii. ver. 15, *Και γινετο, ως απηλθον απ' αυτων εις τον υφανον οι αγγελοι*, “as the angels were gone away,” i. e. *after* their departure, *οι ωοιμένες ειπον προς αλληλους*. Matt. ch. xii. ver. 43, *Οταν δε το ακαθάρτον πνευμα εξελθη απο του ανθρωπου*, “when the unclean spirit is gone,” i. e. *after* his departure, *διερχεται*. John, ch. xiii. ver. 30, *Οτε εξηλθε (Ιωδας)* “when he was gone, i. e. *after* his departure, *λεγει Ιησους*. Acts, ch. x. ver. 7, *ως δε απηλθεν ο αγγελος ο λαλων τω Κορηλιω*, “and when the angel which spake unto him “was departed,” i. e. *after* his departure, *φωτισας δυο των οικων*, &c.

“ taking

“ taking wages of them to do you service :  
 “ and when I was present with you and  
 “ wanted, I was chargeable to no man ;  
 “ for that which was lacking to me the  
 “ brethren which came from Macedonia  
 “ supplied.”

It appears from St. Paul's history, as related in the Acts of the Apostles, that upon leaving Macedonia he passed, after a very short stay at Athens, into Achaia. It appears, secondly, from the quotation out of the epistle to the Corinthians, that in Achaia he accepted no pecuniary assistance from the converts of that country ; but that he drew a supply for his wants from the Macedonian Christians. Agreeably whereunto it appears, in the third place, from the text which is the subject of the present number, that the brethren in Philippi, a city of Macedonia, had followed him with their munificence, *οτι εξηλθον απο Μακεδονιας*, when he was departed from Macedonia, that is, when he was *come into Achaia*.

The passage under consideration affords another circumstance of agreement deserving of our notice. The gift alluded to in the  
epistle

epistle to the Philippians is stated to have been made "in the beginning of the gospel." This phrase is most naturally explained to signify the first preaching of the gospel in these parts; viz. on that side of the *Ægean* sea. The succours referred to in the epistle to the Corinthians, as received from Macedonia, are stated to have been received by him upon his first visit to the peninsula of Greece. The dates therefore assigned to the donation in the two epistles agree; yet is the date in one ascertained very incidentally, namely, by the considerations which fix the date of the epistle itself; and in the other, by an expression ("the beginning of the gospel") much too general to have been used, if the text had been penned with any view to the correspondency we are remarking.

Farther, the phrase, "in the *beginning* of the gospel," raises an idea in the reader's mind that the gospel had been preached there more than once. The writer would hardly have called the visit to which he refers the "beginning of the gospel," if he had not also visited them in some other stage  
of

of it. The fact corresponds with this idea. If we consult the sixteenth and twentieth chapters of the Acts, we shall find, that St. Paul, before his imprisonment at Rome, during which this epistle purports to have been written, had been *twice* in Macedonia, and each time at Philippi.

#### No. IV.

That Timothy had been long with St. Paul at Philippi is a fact which seems to be implied in this epistle twice. First, he joins in the salutation with which the epistle opens, "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi." Secondly, and more directly, the point is inferred from what is said concerning him, chap. ii. ver. 19 : "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort when I know your state; for I have no man like minded, who will naturally care for your state; for all seek their own, not the things which

“ which are Jesus Christ’s; but *ye know the*  
 “ *proof of him*, that as a son with the father,  
 “ he hath served with me in the gospel.”  
 Had Timothy’s presence with St. Paul at  
 Philippi, when he preached the gospel there,  
 been expressly remarked in the Acts of the  
 Apostles, this quotation might be thought  
 to contain a contrived adaptation to the his-  
 tory; although, even in that case, the aver-  
 ment, or rather the allusion in the epistle,  
 is too oblique to afford much room for such  
 suspicion. But the truth is, that in the his-  
 tory of St. Paul’s transactions at Philippi,  
 which occupies the greatest part of the six-  
 teenth chapter of the Acts, no mention is  
 made of Timothy at all. What appears  
 concerning Timothy in the history, so far  
 as relates to the present subject, is this :  
 “ When Paul came to Derbe and Lystra,  
 “ behold a certain disciple was there named  
 “ Timotheus, whom Paul would have to go  
 “ forth with him.” The narrative then pro-  
 ceeds with the account of St. Paul’s progress  
 through various provinces of the Lesser Asia,  
 till it brings him down to Troas. At Troas  
 he was warned in a vision to pass over into

Ma-



Macedonia. In obedience to which he crossed the Ægean sea to Samothracia, the next day to Neapolis, and from thence to Philippi. His preaching, miracles, and persecutions at Philippi follow next ; after which Paul and his company, when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, came to Thessalonica, and from Thessalonica to Berea. From Berea the brethren sent away Paul ; “ but Silas and “ *Timotheus* abode there still.” The itinerary, of which the above is an abstract, is undoubtedly sufficient to support an inference that Timothy was along with St. Paul at Philippi. We find them setting out together upon this progress from Derbe, in Lycaonia ; we find them together near the conclusion of it, at Berea, in Macedonia. It is highly probable, therefore, that they came together to Philippi, through which their route between these two places lay. If this be thought probable, it is sufficient. For what I wish to be observed is, that in comparing, upon this subject, the epistle with the history, we do not find a recital in one place of what is related in another ;  
but

but that we find, what is much more to be relied upon, an oblique allusion to an implied fact.

### No. V.

Our epistle purports to have been written near the conclusion of St. Paul's imprisonment at Rome, and after a residence in that city of considerable duration. These circumstances are made out by different intimations, and the intimations upon the subject preserve among themselves a just consistency, and a consistency certainly unmeditated. First, the apostle had already been a prisoner at Rome so long, as that the reputation of his bonds, and of his constancy under them, had contributed to advance the success of the gospel: "But I would ye  
 "should understand, brethren, that the things  
 "which happened unto me have fallen out  
 "rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;  
 "so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in  
 "all the palace, and in all other places; and  
 "many of the brethren in the Lord waxing  
 "confident by my bonds, are much more  
 "bold

“bold to speak the word without fear.” Secondly, the account given of Epaphroditus imports, that St Paul, when he wrote the epistle, had been in Rome a considerable time; “He longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.” Epaphroditus was with St. Paul at Rome. He had been sick. The Philippians had heard of his sickness, and he again had received an account how much they had been affected by the intelligence. The passing and repassing of these advices must necessarily have occupied a large portion of time, and must have all taken place during St. Paul’s residence at Rome. Thirdly, after a residence at Rome thus proved to have been of considerable duration, he now regards the decision of his fate as nigh at hand. He contemplates either alternative, that of his deliverance, ch. ii. ver. 23, “Him therefore (Timothy) I hope to send *presently*, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me; but I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly:” that of his condemnation, ver. 17, “Yea, and  
“if

“ if I be offered \* upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy and rejoice with you all.” This consistency is material, if the consideration of it be confined to the epistle. It is farther material, as it agrees, with respect to the duration of St. Paul’s first imprisonment at Rome, with the account delivered in the Acts, which, having brought the apostle to Rome, closes the history by telling us, “ that he dwelt there *two whole years* in his own hired house.”

## No. VI,

Chap. i. ver. 23. “ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ ; which is far better.”

With this compare 2 Cor, chap. v. ver. 8, “ We are confident and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

The sameness of sentiment in these two quotations is obvious. I rely however not so much upon that, as upon the similitude

\* Αλλ’ εἰ καὶ σπινδομαι ἐπὶ τῇ θυσίᾳ τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν, if my blood be poured out as a libation upon the sacrifice of your faith.

in the train of thought which in each epistle leads up to this sentiment, and upon the suitableness of that train of thought to the circumstances under which the epistles purport to have been written. This, I conceive, bespeaks the production of the same mind, and of a mind operating upon real circumstances. The sentiment is in both places preceded by the contemplation of imminent personal danger. To the Philippians he writes, in the twentieth verse of this chapter, "According to my earnest expectation  
 "and my hope, that in nothing I shall be  
 "ashamed, but that with all boldness, as  
 "always, *so now also*, Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life  
 "or by death." To the Corinthians,  
 "Troubled on every side, yet not distressed;  
 "perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but  
 "not destroyed; always bearing about in  
 "the body the dying of the Lord Jesus." This train of reflection is continued to the place from whence the words which we compare are taken. The two epistles, though written at different times, from different

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ferent

ferent places, and to different churches, were both written under circumstances which would naturally recal to the author's mind the precarious condition of his life, and the perils which constantly awaited him. When the epistle to the Philippians was written, the author was a prisoner at home, expecting his trial. When the second epistle to the Corinthians was written, he had lately escaped a danger in which he had given himself over for lost. The epistle opens with a recollection of this subject, and the impression accompanied the writer's thoughts throughout.

I know that nothing is easier than to transplant into a forged epistle a sentiment or expression which is found in a true one; or, supposing both epistles to be forged by the same hand, to insert the same sentiment or expression in both. But the difficulty is to introduce it in just and close connection with a train of thought going before, and with a train of thought apparently generated by the circumstances under which the epistle is written. In two epistles, purporting to be written on different occasions,

and

and in different periods of the author's history, this propriety would not easily be managed.

## No. VII.

Chap. i. 29, 30; ii. 1, 2. "For unto you  
 " is given in the behalf of Christ, not only  
 " to believe on him, but also to suffer for  
 " his sake, having the same conflict which  
 " *ye saw in me*, and now hear to be in me.  
 " If there be, therefore, any consolation in  
 " Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fel-  
 " lowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and  
 " mercies : fulfil ye my joy ; that ye be  
 " like minded, having the same love, being  
 " of one accord, of one mind."

With this compare Acts xvi. 22 : " And  
 " the multitude (at Philippi) rose up against  
 " them (Paul and Silas); and the magistrates  
 " rent off their clothes, and commanded  
 " to beat them ; and when they had laid  
 " many stripes upon them, they cast them  
 " into prison, charging the jailer to keep  
 " them safely ; who, having received such

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" a charge,

“ a charge, thrust them into the inner  
 “ prison, and made their feet fast in the  
 “ stocks.”

The passage in the epistle is very remarkable. I know not an example in any writing of a juster pathos, or which more truly represents the workings of a warm and affectionate mind, than what is exhibited in the quotation before us \*. The apostle reminds his Philippians of their being joined with himself in the endurance of persecution for the sake of Christ. He conjures them by the ties of their common profession and their common sufferings, to “ fulfil his  
 “ joy ;” to complete, by the unity of their faith, and by their mutual love, that joy with which the instances he had received of their zeal and attachment had inspired his breast. Now if this was the real effusion of St. Paul’s mind, of which it bears the strongest internal character, then we have

\* The original is very spirited: *Εἰ τις ἢ παρακλησις ἢ Χριστοῦ, ἢ τι παραμυθιον ἀγάπης, ἢ τις κοινωνία πνεύματος, ἢ τις, στεναγμοὶ καὶ οἰκτιρμοί, πληρῶσατε με τῇ χαρᾷ.*



in the words " the same conflict which ye  
" saw in me," an authentic confirmation of  
so much of the apostle's history in the Acts,  
as relates to his transactions at Philippi ;  
and through that of the intelligence and  
general fidelity of the historian.

## CHAP. VIII.

## THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS.

## No. I.

**T**HERE is a circumstance of conformity between St. Paul's history and his letters, especially those which were written during his first imprisonment at Rome, and more especially the epistles to the Colossians and Ephesians, which, being too close to be accounted for from accident, yet too indirect and latent to be imputed to design, cannot easily be resolved into any other original than truth. Which circumstance is this, that St. Paul in these epistles attributes his imprisonment not to his preaching of Christianity, but to his asserting the right of the Gentiles to be admitted into it without conforming themselves to the Jewish law. This was the doctrine to which he considered himself as a martyr. Thus, in the epistle before us,

chap.

chap. i. ver. 24. (I Paul) "who now rejoice  
 "in my sufferings for you"—"*for you*" i. e.  
 for those whom he had never seen ; for a  
 few verses afterwards he adds, "I would  
 "that he knew what great conflict I have  
 "for you, and for them in Laodicea, and  
 "for as many as have not seen my face  
 "in the flesh." His sufferings therefore  
 for *them* was, in their general capacity of  
 Gentile Christians, agreeably to what he  
 explicitly declares in his epistle to the Ephe-  
 sians, iv. 1. "For this cause, I Paul, the  
 "prisoner of Jesus Christ, *for you Gen-*  
 "*tiles.*" Again in the epistle now under  
 consideration, iv. 3. "Withal praying  
 "also for us, that God would open unto us  
 "a door of utterance to speak the *mystery* of  
 "Christ, for which I am also in bonds."  
 What that "*mystery of Christ*" was, the  
 epistle to the Ephesians distinctly informs  
 us ; "whereby when ye read ye may un-  
 "derstand my knowledge in the *mystery of*  
 "*Christ*, which, in other ages, was not  
 "made known unto the sons of men, as it  
 "is now revealed unto his holy apostles  
 "and prophets by the Spirit, *that the Gen-*  
 "tiles

*“ they should be fellow-heirs, and of the same  
 “ body, and partakers of his promise in Christ  
 “ by the gospel.”* This, therefore, was the  
*confession* for which he declares himself to  
 be in bonds. Now let us enquire how the  
 occasion of St. Paul's imprisonment is re-  
 presented in the history. The apostle had  
 not long returned to Jerusalem from his se-  
 cond visit into Greece, when an uproar  
 was excited in that city by the clamour of  
 certain Asiatic Jews, who, “ having seen  
 “ Paul in the temple, stirred up all the  
 “ people, and laid hands on him.” The  
 charge advanced against him was, that “ he  
 “ taught all men every where against the  
 “ people, and the law, and this place; and  
 “ farther brought Greeks also into the  
 “ temple, and polluted that holy place.”  
 The former part of the charge seems to  
 point at the doctrine, which he main-  
 tained, of the admission of the Gentiles,  
 under the new dispensation, to an indiscrimi-  
 nate participation of God's favour with  
 the Jews. But what follows makes the  
 matter clear. When, by the interference  
 of the chief captain, Paul had been rescued  
 out

out of the hands of the populace, and was permitted to address the multitude who had followed him to the stairs of the castle, he delivered a brief account of his birth, of the early course of his life, of his miraculous conversion; and is proceeding in his narrative, until he comes to describe a vision which was presented to him, as he was praying in the temple; and which bid him depart out of Jerusalem, "for I will send thee far hence *unto the Gentiles*." Acts xxii. 21. "They gave him audience," says the historian, "*unto this word*; and then lift up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth." Nothing can shew more strongly than this account does, what was the offence which drew down upon St. Paul the vengeance of his countrymen. His mission to the Gentiles, and his open avowal of that mission, was the intolerable part of the apostle's crime. But although the real motive of the prosecution appears to have been the Apostle's conduct towards the Gentiles; yet, when his accusers came before a Roman magistrate, a charge was to be framed of a  
more

more legal form. The profanation of the temple was the article they chose to rely upon. This, therefore, became the immediate subject of Tertullus's oration before Felix, and of Paul's defence. But that he all along considered his ministry amongst the Gentiles as the actual source of the enmity that had been exercised against him, and in particular as the cause of the insurrection in which his person had been seized, is apparent from the conclusion of his discourse before Agrippa : " I have appeared  
 " unto thee," says he, describing what passed upon his journey to Damascus, " for this  
 " purpose, to make thee a minister and a  
 " witness, both of these things which thou  
 " hast seen, and of those things in the which  
 " I will appear unto thee, delivering thee  
 " from the people and from the Gentiles,  
 " unto whom now I send thee, to open  
 " their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of  
 " Satan unto God, that they may receive  
 " forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among  
 " them which are sanctified by faith that is  
 " in me. Whereupon, O King Agrippa,  
 " I was

“ I was not disobedient unto the heavenly  
 “ vision ; but shewed first unto them of  
 “ Damascus, and of Jerusalem, and through-  
 “ out all the coasts of Judea, and then to  
 “ the Gentiles, that they should repent and  
 “ turn to God, and do works meet for  
 “ repentance. *For these causes* the Jews  
 “ caught me in the temple, and went about  
 “ to kill me.” The seizing, therefore, of  
 St. Paul’s person, from which he was never  
 discharged till his final liberation at Rome;  
 and of which, therefore, his imprisonment  
 at Rome was the continuation and effect,  
 was not in consequence of any general  
 persecution set on foot against Christi-  
 anity ; nor did it befall him simply, as  
 professing or teaching Christ’s religion,  
 which James and the elders at Jerusalem  
 did as well as he (and yet for any thing  
 that appears remained at that time unmo-  
 lested); but it was distinctly and specifically  
 brought upon him by his activity in preach-  
 ing to the Gentiles, and by his boldly  
 placing them upon a level with the once-  
 favoured and still self-flattered posterity of  
 Abraham. How well St. Paul’s letters,

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purporting to be written during this imprisonment, agree with this account of its cause and origin, we have already seen.

## No. II.

Chap. iv. ver. 10. "Aristarchus my fellow-prisoner saluteth you; and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, touching whom ye received commandments; if he come unto you, receive him, and Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision."

We find Aristarchus as a companion of our apostle in the nineteenth chapter of the Acts, and the twenty-ninth verse; "And the whole city of Ephesus was filled with confusion; and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre." And we find him upon his journey with St. Paul to Rome, in the twenty-seventh chapter, and the second verse: "And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered  
" Paul



“ Paul and certain other prisoners unto one  
 “ named Julius, a centurion of Augustus’s  
 “ band ; and, entering into a ship of Adra-  
 “ myttium, we launched, meaning to sail  
 “ by the coast of Asia ; one *Aristarchus*, a  
 “ *Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.*”

But might not the author of the epistle have consulted the history ; and, observing that the historian had brought Aristarchus along with Paul to Rome, might he not for that reason, and without any other foundation, have put down his name amongst the salutations of an epistle, purporting to be written by the apostle from that place ? I allow so much of possibility to this objection, that I should not have proposed this in the number of coincidences clearly undesigned, had Aristarchus stood alone. The observation that strikes me, in reading the passage is, that together with Aristarchus, whose journey to Rome we trace in the history, are joined Marcus and Justus, of whose coming to Rome the history says nothing. Aristarchus alone appears in the history, and Aristarchus alone would have appeared in the epistle, if the author had

regulated himself by that conformity. Or if you take it the other way ; if you suppose the history to have been made out of the epistle, why the journey of Aristarchus to Rome should be recorded, and not that of Marcus and Justus, if the groundwork of the narrative was the appearance of Aristarchus's name in the epistle, seems to be unaccountable.

“ Marcus, *sister's son* to Barnabas.” Does not this hint account for Barnabas's adherence to Mark in the contest that arose with our apostle concerning him ; “ And some  
 “ days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us  
 “ go again and visit our brethren in every  
 “ city where we have preached the word  
 “ of the Lord, and see how they do: and  
 “ *Barnabas determined to take with them*  
 “ *John, whose surname was Mark* ; but  
 “ Paul thought not good to take him with  
 “ them, who departed from Pamphylia, and  
 “ went not with them to the work ; and the  
 “ contention was so sharp between them, that  
 “ they departed asunder one from the other ;  
 “ and so Barnabas took Mark and sailed unto  
 “ Cyprus.” The history which records  
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the dispute has not preserved the circumstance of Mark's relationship to Barnabas. It is nowhere noticed but in the text before us. As far, therefore, as it applies, the application is certainly undesigned.

"*Sister's son to Barnabas.*" This woman, the mother of Mark, and the sister of Barnabas, was, as might be expected, a person of some eminence amongst the Christians of Jerusalem. It so happens that we hear of her in the history. "When Peter was delivered from prison, he came to the house of *Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark*, where many were gathered together praying." Acts xii. 12. There is somewhat of coincidence in this; somewhat bespeaking real transactions amongst real persons.

### No. III.

The following coincidence, though it bear the appearance of great nicety and refinement, ought not, perhaps, to be deemed imaginary. In the salutations with which this, like most of St. Paul's epistles, concludes, we have "Aristarchus and Marcus,

“and Jesus, which is called Justus, *who are of the circumcision*,” (iv. 10, 11). Then follow also “Epaphras, Luke the beloved physician, and Demas.” Now as this description, “who are of the circumcision,” is added after the three first names, it is inferred, not without great appearance of probability, that the rest, amongst whom is Luke, were not of the circumcision. Now can we discover any expression in the Acts of the Apostles, which ascertains whether the author of the book was a Jew or not? If we can discover that he was not a Jew, we fix a circumstance in his character, which coincides with what is here, indirectly indeed, but not very uncertainly, intimated concerning Luke: and we so far confirm both the testimony of the primitive church, that the Acts of the Apostles was written by St. Luke, and the general reality of the persons and circumstances brought together in this epistle. The text in the Acts, which has been construed to shew that the writer was not a Jew, is the nineteenth verse of the first chapter, where, in describing the field which had been purchased with  
the

the reward of Judas's iniquity, it is said, "that it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; inasmuch as that field is called, in *their* proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, the field of blood." These words are by most commentators taken to be the words and observation of the historian, and not a part of St. Peter's speech, in the midst of which they are found. If this be admitted, then it is argued that the expression, "in *their* proper tongue," would not have been used by a Jew, but is suitable to the pen of a Gentile writing concerning Jews\*. The reader will judge of the probability of this conclusion, and we urge the coincidence no farther than that probability extends. The coincidence, if it be one, is so remote from all possibility of design, that nothing need be added to satisfy the reader upon that part of the argument.

\* Vide Benson's Dissertation, vol. i. p. 318 of his works, Ed. 1756,

## No. IV.

Chap. iv. ver. 9. "With Onesimus, a  
 " faithful and beloved brother, *who is one of*  
 " *you.*"

Observe how it may be made out that Onesimus was a Colossian. Turn to the epistle to Philemon, and you will find that Onesimus was the servant or slave of Philemon. The question therefore will be to what city Philemon belonged. In the epistle addressed to him this is not declared. It appears only that he was of the same place, whatever that place was, with an eminent christian named Archippus. "Paul, " a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy " our brother, unto Philemon our dearly " beloved and fellow-labourer; and to " our beloved Apphia, and *Archippus* our " fellow-soldier, and to the church in thy " house." Now turn back to the epistle to the Colossians, and you will find Archippus saluted by name amongst the Christians of that church. " Say to Archippus, take  
 " heed

“heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord that thou fulfil it” (iv. 17). The necessary result is, that Onesimus also was of the same city, agreeably to what is said of him, “he is one of you.” And this result is the effect, either of truth which produces consistency without the writer’s thought or care, or of a contexture of forgeries confirming and falling in with one another by a species of fortuity of which I know no example. The supposition of design, I think, is excluded; not only because the purpose to which the design must have been directed, viz. the verification of the passage in our epistle, in which it is said concerning Onesimus, “he is one of you,” is a purpose which would be lost upon ninety-nine readers out of a hundred; but because the means made use of are too circuitous to have been the subject of affectation and contrivance. Would a forger, who had this purpose in view, have left his readers to hunt it out, by going forward and backward from one epistle to another, in order

to connect Onesimus with Philemon, Philemon with Archippus, and Archippus with Colosse ? all which he must do before he arrives at his discovery, that it was truly said of Onesimus, “ he is one of you.”



## CHAP. IX.

THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE  
THESSALONIANS.

## No. I.

**I**T is known to every reader of scripture, that the first epistle to the Thessalonians speaks of the coming of Christ in terms which indicate an expectation of his speedy appearance: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that *we* which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then *we which are alive and remain*, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds—But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (chap. iv. 15, 16, 17. chap. v. ver. 4).

Whatever other construction these texts may *bear*, the idea they leave upon the mind of an ordinary reader, is that of the author of the epistle looking for the day of judgement to take place in his own time, or near to it. Now the use which I make of this circumstance, is to deduce from it a proof that the epistle itself was not the production of a subsequent age. Would an impostor have given this expectation to St. Paul, after experience had proved it to be erroneous? or would he have put into the apostle's mouth, or, which is the same thing, into writings purporting to come from his hand, expressions, if not necessarily conveying, at least easily interpreted to convey, an opinion which was then known to be founded in mistake? I state this as an argument to shew that the epistle was contemporary with St. Paul, which is little less than to shew that it actually proceeded from his pen. For I question whether any ancient forgeries were executed in the life-time of the person whose name they bear; nor was the primitive situation of the church likely to give birth to such an attempt.

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## No. II.

Our epistle concludes with a direction, that it should be publicly read in the church to which it was addressed: "I charge you by the Lord, that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren." The existence of this clause in the body of the epistle is an evidence of its authenticity; because to produce a letter purporting to have been publicly read in the church of Thessalonica, when no such letter in truth had been read or heard of in that church, would be to produce an imposture destructive of itself. At least, it seems unlikely that the author of an imposture would voluntarily, and even officiously, afford a handle to so plain an objection. Either the epistle was publicly read in the church of Thessalonica during St. Paul's life-time, or it was not. If it was, no publication could be more authentic, no species of notoriety more unquestionable, no method of preserving the integrity of the copy more secure. If it was not, the clause we produce would re-

main a standing condemnation of the forgery, and, one would suppose, an invincible impediment to its success.

If we connect this article with the preceding, we shall perceive that they combine into one strong proof of the genuineness of the epistle. The preceding article carries up the date of the epistle to the time of St. Paul; the present article fixes the publication of it to the church of Thessalonica. Either therefore the church of Thessalonica was imposed upon by a false epistle, which in St. Paul's life-time they received and read publicly as his, carrying on a communication with him all the while, and the epistle referring to the continuance of that communication; or other Christian churches in the same life-time of the apostle, received an epistle purporting to have been publicly read in the church of Thessalonica, which nevertheless had not been heard of in that church; or lastly, the conclusion remains, that the epistle now in our hands is genuine.

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## No. III.

Between our epistle and the history the accordancy in many points is circumstantial and complete. The history relates, that, after Paul and Silas had been beaten with many stripes at Philippi, shut up in the inner prison, and their feet made fast in the stocks, as soon as they were discharged from their confinement they departed from thence, and, when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, came to Thessalonica, where Paul opened and alledged that Jesus was the Christ, Acts xvi. 23, &c. The epistle written in the name of Paul and Sylvanus (Silas), and of Timotheus, who also appears to have been along with them at Philippi, (vide Phil. No. iv.) speaks to the church of Thessalonica thus: "Even after  
 " that we had suffered before, and were  
 " shamefully entreated, as ye know, at  
 " Philippi, we were bold in our God to  
 " speak unto you the gospel of God with  
 " much contention," (ii. 21).

The history relates, that after they had been some time at Thessalonica, " the  
 " Jews

“ Jews who believed not set all the city in  
 “ an uproar, and assaulted the house of Ja-  
 “ son where Paul and Silas were, and sought  
 “ to bring them out to the people.” Acts  
 xvii. 5. The epistle declares, “ when we  
 “ were with you, we told you before that  
 “ we should suffer tribulation ; even *as it*  
 “ *came to pass, and ye know*” (iii. 4.)

The history brings Paul and Silas and Timothy together at Corinth, soon after the preaching of the gospel at Thessalonica :  
 “ And when Silas and Timotheus were  
 “ come from Macedonia (to Corinth), Paul  
 “ was pressed in spirit.” Acts xviii. 5. The epistle is written in the name of these three persons, who consequently must have been together at the time, and speaks throughout of their ministry at Thessalonica as a recent transaction : “ We, brethren, *being*  
 “ *taken from you for a short time*, in presence  
 “ not in heart, endeavoured the more  
 “ abundantly to see your face with great  
 “ desire,” (ii. 17).

The harmony is indubitable ; but the points of history in which it consists, are so expressly set forth in the narrative, and  
 so

so directly referred to in the epistle, that it becomes necessary for us to shew, that the facts in one writing were not copied from the other. Now amidst some minuter discrepancies, which will be noticed below, there is one circumstance which mixes itself with all the allusions in the epistle, but does not appear in the history any where; and that is of a visit which St. Paul had intended to pay to the Thessalonians during the time of his residing at Corinth: "Wherefore we would have come unto you (even I Paul) once and again, but Satan hindered us," (ii. 18.) "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith. Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you," (iii. 10, 11.) Concerning a design which was not executed, although the person himself, who was conscious of his own purpose, should make mention in his letters, nothing is more probable than that his historian should be silent, if not ignorant. The author of the epistle could not  
how-

however have learnt this circumstance from the history, for it is not there to be met with ; nor, if the historian had drawn his materials from the epistle, is it likely that he would have passed over a circumstance, which is amongst the most obvious and prominent of the facts to be collected from that source of information.

## No. IV.

Chap. iii. 1—7. “ Wherefore when we  
“ could no longer forbear, we thought it  
“ good *to be left at Athens alone*, and sent  
“ Timotheus, our brother and minister of  
“ God, to establish you, and to comfort you  
“ concerning your faith ;—but now when  
“ Timotheus came from you unto us, and  
“ brought us good tidings of your faith and  
“ charity, we were comforted over you in  
“ all our affliction and distress by your  
“ faith.”

The history relates, that when Paul came out of Macedonia to Athens, Silas and Timothy staid behind at Berea : “ The brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to  
“ the



“ the sea ; but Silas and Timotheus abode  
“ there still ; and they that conducted Paul  
“ brought him to Athens.” Acts, ch. xvii.  
ver. 14, 15. The history farther relates, that  
after Paul had tarried some time at Athens,  
and had proceeded from thence to Corinth,  
whilst he was exercising his ministry in that  
city, Silas and Timothy came to him from  
Macedonia, Acts, ch. xviii. ver. 5. But to  
reconcile the history with the clause in the  
epistle which makes St. Paul say, “ I thought  
“ it good to be left at Athens alone, and to  
“ send Timothy unto you,” it is necessary  
to suppose that Timothy had come up with  
St. Paul at Athens : a circumstance which  
the history does not mention. I remark  
therefore, that, although the history do not  
expressly notice this arrival, yet it contains  
intimations which render it extremely pro-  
bable that the fact took place. First, as  
soon as Paul had reached Athens, he sent a  
message back to Silas and Timothy “ for  
“ to come to him with all speed.” Acts,  
chap. xvii. ver. 15. Secondly, his stay at  
Athens was on purpose that they might join  
him there : “ Now whilst Paul *waited for*  
*them*

" *them at Athens*, his spirit was stirred in " him," Acts, ch. xvii. ver. 16. Thirdly, his departure from Athens does not appear to have been in any sort hastened or abrupt. It is said, " after these things," viz. his disputation with the Jews, his conferences with the philosophers, his discourse at Areopagus, and the gaining of some converts, " he departed from Athens and came to " Corinth." It is not hinted that he quitted Athens before the time that he had intended to leave it; it is not suggested that he was driven from thence, as he was from many cities, by tumults or persecutions, or because his life was no longer safe. Observe then the particulars which the history *does* notice—that Paul had ordered Timothy to follow him without delay, that he waited at Athens on purpose that Timothy might come up with him, that he staid there as long as his own choice led him to continue. Laying these circumstances which the history does disclose together, it is highly probable that Timothy came to the apostle at Athens, a fact which the epistle, we have seen, virtually asserts

when it makes Paul send Timothy back from Athens to Theſſalonica. The *ſending back of Timothy into Macedonia* accounts alſo for his not coming to Corinth till after Paul had been fixed in that city for ſome conſiderable time. Paul had found out Aquila and Prifcilla, abode with them and wrought, being of the ſame craft; and reaſoned in the ſynagogue every ſabbath-day, and perſuaded the Jews and the Greeks, Acts, ch. xviii. ver. 1—5. All this paſſed at Corinth before Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Acts, ch. xviii. ver. 5. If this was the firſt time of their coming up with him after their ſeparation at Berea, there is nothing to account for a delay ſo contrary to what appears from the hiſtory itſelf to have been St. Paul's plan and expectation. This is a conformity of a peculiar ſpecies. The epiſtle diſcloſes a fact which is not preſerved in the hiſtory; but which makes what is ſaid in the hiſtory more ſignificant, probable, and conſiſtent. The hiſtory bears marks of an omiſſion; the epiſtle by reference furniſhes a circumſtance which ſupplies that omiſſion.

## No. V.

Chap. ii. ver. 14. "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God  
" which in Judea are in Christ Jesus; for ye  
" also have suffered like things *of your own*  
" *countrymen*, even as they have of the  
" Jews."

To a reader of the Acts of the Apostles, it might seem, at first sight, that the persecutions which the preachers and converts of Christianity underwent, were suffered at the hands of their old adversaries the Jews. But, if we attend carefully to the accounts there delivered, we shall observe, that, though the opposition made to the gospel usually *originated* from the enmity of the Jews, yet in almost all places the Jews went about to accomplish their purpose, by stirring up the Gentile inhabitants against their converted countrymen. Out of Judea they had not power to do much mischief in any other way. This was the case at Thessalonica in particular: "The Jews  
" which believed not, moved with envy, set  
" all the city in an uproar." Acts, ch. xvii.

ver. 5. It was the same a short time afterwards at Berea: "When the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people." Acts, ch. xvii. ver. 13. And before this our apostle had met with a like species of persecution, in his progress through the lesser Asia: "In every city the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren." Acts, ch. xiv. ver. 2. The epistle therefore represents the case accurately as the history states it. It was the Jews always who set on foot the persecutions against the apostles and their followers. He speaks truly therefore of them, when he says in this epistle, "they both killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have *persecuted us*—forbidding us to speak unto the Gentiles," (ii. 15, 16.) But out of Judea it was at the hands of the Gentiles, it was "of their own countrymen," that the injuries they underwent were immediately sustained: "Ye have

X

" suf-

“ suffered like things of your own country-  
“ men, even as they have of the Jews.”

No. VI.

The apparent discrepancies between our epistle and the history, though of magnitude sufficient to repel the imputation of confederacy or transcription (in which view they form a part of our argument), are neither numerous, nor very difficult to reconcile.

One of these may be observed in the ninth and tenth verses of the second chapter:  
“ For ye remember, brethren, our labour  
“ and travel ; for labouring night and day,  
“ because we would not be chargeable unto  
“ any of you, we preached unto you the  
“ gospel of God. Ye are witnesses, and  
“ God also, how holily and justly and un-  
“ blameably we behaved ourselves among  
“ you that believe.” A person who reads this passage is naturally led by it to suppose, that the writer had dwelt at Thessalonica for some considerable time ; yet of St. Paul’s ministry in that city, the history  
gives

gives no other account than the following :  
 “ that he came to Theſſalonica, where was  
 “ a ſynagogue of the Jews ; that, as his  
 “ manner was, he went in unto them, and  
 “ *three ſabbath days* reasoned with them out  
 “ of the ſcriptures ; that ſome of them be-  
 “ lieved and comforted with Paul and Silas.”

The hiſtory then proceeds to tell us, that the Jews which believed not ſet the city in an uproar, and aſſaulted the houſe of Jaſon, where Paul and his companions lodged ; that the conſequence of this outrage was, that “ the brethren immediately ſent away  
 “ Paul and Silas by night unto Berea.” Acts, ch. xvii. ver. 1—10. From the mention of his preaching three ſabbath days in the Jewish ſynagogue, and from the want of any farther ſpecification of his miniſtry, it has uſually been taken for granted that Paul did not continue at Theſſalonica more than three weeks. This, however, is inferred without neceſſity. It appears to have been St. Paul’s practice, in almoſt every place that he came to, upon his firſt arrival to repair to the ſynagogue. He thought

himself bound to propose the gospel to the Jews *first*, agreeably to what he declared at Antioch in Pisidia; “it was necessary  
“that the word of God should first have  
“been spoken to you.” Acts, ch. xiii. ver. 46. If the Jews rejected his ministry, he quitted the synagogue, and betook himself to a Gentile audience. At Corinth, upon his first coming thither, he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath; “but when the  
“Jews opposed themselves, and blasphemed,  
“he departed thence,” expressly telling them, “from henceforth I will go unto the  
“Gentiles; and he remained in that city a  
“year and six months.” Acts, ch. xviii. ver. 6—11. At Ephesus, in like manner, for the space of three months he went into the synagogue; but “when divers were  
“hardened and believed not, but spake evil  
“of that way, he departed from them and  
“separated the disciples, disputing daily in  
“the school of one Tyrannus; and this  
“continued by the space of two years.” Acts, ch. xix. ver. 9, 10. Upon inspecting the history, I see nothing in it which nega-  
tives



tives the supposition, that St. Paul pursued the same plan at Thessalonica which he adopted in other places; and that, though he resorted to the synagogue only three sabbath-days, yet he remained in the city, and in the exercise of his ministry amongst the Gentile citizens, much longer; and until the success of his preaching had provoked the Jews to excite the tumult and insurrection by which he was driven away.

Another seeming discrepancy is found in the ninth verse of the first chapter of the epistle; "For they themselves show of us  
 " what manner of entering in we had unto  
 " you, and how *ye turned to God from idols*  
 " to serve the living and true God." This text contains an assertion, that, by means of St. Paul's ministry at Thessalonica, many idolatrous Gentiles had been brought over to Christianity. Yet the history, in describing the effects of that ministry, only says, that  
 " some of the Jews believed, and of the de-  
 " vout Greeks a great multitude, and of the  
 " chief women not a few," (ch. xvii. ver. 4.)  
 The devout Greeks were those who already

worshipped the one true God; and therefore could not be said, by embracing Christianity, "to be turned to God from idols."

This is the difficulty. The answer may be assisted by the following observations: The Alexandrian and Cambridge manuscripts read (for τῶν σεβομένων ἐλλήνων πολὺ πλῆθος) τῶν σεβομένων καὶ ἐλλήνων πολὺ πλῆθος. In which reading they are also confirmed by the Vulgate Latin. And this reading is, in my opinion, strongly supported by the considerations, first, that οἱ σεβόμενοι alone, *i. e.* without ἐλλήνες, is used in this sense in this same chapter, Paul being come to Athens, διελέγετο ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις καὶ τοῖς σεβομένοις: secondly, that σεβόμενοι and ἐλλήνες nowhere come together. The expression is redundant. The οἱ σεβόμενοι must be ἐλλήνες. Thirdly, that the καὶ is much more likely to have been left out incuriâ manus than to have been put in. Or, after all, if we be not allowed to change the present reading, which is undoubtedly retained by a great plurality of copies, may not the passage in the history be considered

as describing only the effects of St. Paul's discourses during the three sabbath-days in which he preached in the synagogue? and may it not be true, as we have remarked above, that his application to the Gentiles at large, and his success amongst them, was posterior to this?

## CHAP. X.

## THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS.

## No. I.

**I**T may seem odd to alledge obscurity itself as an argument, or to draw a proof in favour of a writing, from that which is usually considered as the principal defect in its composition. The present epistle, however, furnishes a passage, hitherto unexplained, and probably inexplicable by us, the existence of which, under the darkness and difficulties that attend it, can only be accounted for upon the supposition of the epistle being genuine; and upon that supposition is accounted for with great ease. The passage which I allude to is found in the second chapter: “that day shall not  
 “come, except there come a falling away  
 “first, and that man of sin be revealed, the  
 “son of perdition, who opposeth and ex-  
 “alteth himself above all that is called God,  
 “or

“ or that is worshipped ; so that he as God  
“ sitteth in the temple of God, shewing  
“ himself that he is God. Remember ye not,  
“ that WHEN I WAS YET WITH YOU I TOLD  
“ YOU THESE THINGS? *and now ye know*  
“ *what withholdeth, that he might be revealed*  
“ *in his time* ; for the mystery of iniquity doth  
“ already work, *only he that now letteth will*  
“ *let, until he be taken out of the way* ; and  
“ then shall that wicked be revealed, whom  
“ the Lord shall consume with the spirit of  
“ his mouth, and shall destroy with the  
“ brightness of his coming.” It were superfluous to prove, because it is in vain to deny, that this passage is involved in great obscurity, more especially the clauses distinguished by italics. Now the observation I have to offer is founded upon this, that the passage expressly refers to a conversation which the author had previously holden with the Thessalonians upon the same subject : “ Remember ye not, that when I was  
“ yet with you *I told you these things ? And*  
“ *now ye know* what withholdeth.” If such conversation actually passed ; if, whilst he was yet with them, “ he *told* them those  
“ things,”

“things,” then it follows that the epistle is authentic. And of the reality of this conversation it appears to be a proof, that what is said in the epistle might be understood by those who had been present to such conversation, and yet be incapable of being explained by any other. No man writes unintelligibly on purpose. But it may easily happen, that a part of a letter which relates to a subject, upon which the parties had conversed together before, which refers to what had been before *said*, which is in truth a portion or continuation of a former discourse, may be utterly without meaning to a stranger, who should pick up the letter upon the road, and yet be perfectly clear to the person to whom it is directed, and with whom the previous communication had passed. And if, in a letter which thus accidentally fell into my hands, I found a passage expressly referring to a former conversation, and difficult to be explained without knowing that conversation, I should consider this very difficulty as a proof that the conversation had actually passed, and consequently that the letter con-

tained the real correspondence of real persons.

## No. II.

Chap. iii. ver. 8. "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought, but wrought with labour night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you : not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow."

In a letter, purporting to have been written to another of the Macedonic churches, we find the following declaration :

"Now ye, Philippians, know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, *no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*"

The conformity between these two passages is strong and plain. They confine the transaction to the same period. The epistle to the Philippians refers to what passed "in the beginning of the gospel," that is to say, during the first preaching of the gospel on that side of the *Ægean* sea. The epistle to the Thessalonians speaks of the apostle's conduct

duct in that city upon "his first entrance in  
"unto them," which the history informs  
us was in the course of his first visit to the  
peninsula of Greece.

As St. Paul tells the Philippians, "that  
"no church communicated with him, as  
"concerning giving and receiving, but they  
"only," he could not, consistently with the  
truth of this declaration, have received any  
thing from the neighbouring church of  
Thessalonica. What thus appears by ge-  
neral implication in an epistle to another  
church, when he writes to the Thessalonians  
themselves, is noticed expressly and parti-  
cularly; "neither did we eat any man's  
"bread for nought, but wrought night and  
"day, that we might not be chargeable to  
"any of you."

The texts here cited farther also exhibit a  
mark of conformity with what St. Paul is  
made to say of himself in the Acts of the  
Apostles. The apostle not only reminds  
the Thessalonians that he had not been  
chargeable to any of them, but he states  
likewise the motive which dictated this re-  
serve; "not because we have not power, but  
"to



“ to make ourselves an ensample unto you  
 “ to follow us,” (ch. iii. ver. 9.) This conduct, and what is much more precise, the end which he had in view by it, was the very same as that which the history attributes to St. Paul in a discourse, which it represents him to have addressed to the elders of the church of Ephesus; “ Yea, ye yourselves also know that these hands have  
 “ ministered unto my necessities, and to  
 “ them that were with me. I have *showed*  
 “ you all things, how *that so labouring ye*  
 “ *ought to support the weak.*” Acts, ch. xx. ver. 34. The sentiment in the epistle and in the speech is in both parts of it so much alike, and yet the words which convey it show so little of imitation or even of resemblance, that the agreement cannot well be explained without supposing the speech and the letter to have really proceeded from the same person.

### No. III.

Our reader remembers the passage in the first epistle to the Thessalonians, in which St. Paul spoke of the coming of Christ :  
 “ This

“ This we say unto you by the word of the  
 “ Lord, that we which are alive, and remain  
 “ unto the coming of the Lord, shall not  
 “ prevent them which are asleep; for the  
 “ Lord himself shall descend from heaven,  
 “ and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then  
 “ we which are alive and remain, shall be  
 “ caught up together with them in the  
 “ clouds, and so shall we be ever with the  
 “ Lord.—But ye, brethren, are not in dark-  
 “ nefs, that that day should overtake you as a  
 “ thief.” 1 Theff. iv. 15—17, and ch. v. ver.  
 4. It should seem that the Theffalonians, or  
 some however amongst them, had from this  
 passage conceived an opinion (and that not  
 very unnaturally) that the coming of Christ  
 was to take place instantly, *ΟΤΙ ΕΠΕΣΤΗΚΕΝ* \*;  
 and that this persuasion had produced, as it  
 well might, much agitation in the church.  
 The apostle therefore now writes, amongst  
 other purposes, to quiet this alarm, and to  
 rectify the misconstruction that had been

\* *ΟΤΙ ΕΠΕΣΤΗΚΕΝ*, nempe hoc anno, says Grotius, *ΕΠΕΣΤΗΚΕΝ*  
 hic dicitur de re præfenti, ut Rom. viii. 38. 1 Cor. iii. 22.  
 Gal. i. 4. Heb. ix. 9.

put upon his words : “ Now we beseech  
 “ you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord  
 “ Jesus Christ, and by our gathering toge-  
 “ ther unto him, that ye be not soon shaken  
 “ in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit  
 “ nor by word, *nor by letter, as from us*, as that  
 “ the day of Christ is at hand.” If the al-  
 lusion which we contend for be admitted,  
 namely, if ~~it~~ be admitted, that the passage in  
 the second epistle relates to the passage in the  
 first, it amounts to a considerable proof of  
 the genuineness of both epistles. I have no  
 conception, because I know no example, of  
 such a device in a forgery, as first to frame  
 an ambiguous passage in a letter, then to  
 represent the persons to whom the letter is  
 addressed as mistaking the meaning of the  
 passage, and lastly, to write a second letter  
 in order to correct this mistake.

I have said that this argument arises out  
 of the text, *if* the allusion be admitted ; for  
 I am not ignorant that many expositors un-  
 derstand the passage in the second epistle, as  
 referring to some forged letters, which had  
 been produced in St. Paul’s name, and in  
 which the apostle had been made to say that  
 the

the coming of Christ was then at hand. In defence, however, of the explanation which we propose, the reader is desired to observe,

1. The strong fact, that there exists a passage in the first epistle, to which that in the second is capable of being referred, *i. e.* which accounts for the error the writer is solicitous to remove. Had no other epistle than the second been extant, and had it under these circumstances come to be considered, whether the text before us related to a forged epistle or to some misconstruction of a true one, many conjectures and many probabilities might have been admitted in the enquiry, which can have little weight when an epistle is produced, containing the very sort of passage we were seeking, that is, a passage liable to the misinterpretation which the apostle protests against.

2. That the clause which introduces the passage in the second epistle bears a particular affinity to what is found in the passage cited from the first epistle. The clause is this: "We beseech you, brethren, by the  
" coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by  
" *our gathering together unto him.*" Now in  
the

the first epistle the description of the coming of Christ is accompanied with the mention of this very circumstance of his saints "being collected round him." "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, *to meet the Lord* in the air." 1 Theff. chap. iv. ver. 16, 17. This I suppose to be the "gathering together unto him" intended in the second epistle; and that the author, when he used these words, retained in his thoughts what he had written on the subject before.

3. The second epistle is written in the joint name of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, and it cautions the Thessalonians against being misled "by letter as from us" (*ὡς δι' ἡμῶν*). Do not these words '*δι' ἡμῶν*,' appropriate the reference to some writing which bore the name of these three teachers? Now this circumstance, which is a very close one, belongs to the epistle at  
Y present

present in our hands ; for the epistle which we call the first epistle to the Thessalonians contains these names in its superscription.

4. The words in the original, as far as they are material to be stated, are these : *εις το μη ταχως σαλευθηναι υμεις απο τε νου, μητε θροεισθαι, μητε δια πνευματος, μητε δια λογου, μητε δι' επιστολης, ως δι' ημων, ως οτι ενεστηκεν η ημερα τε Χριστου.* Under the weight of the preceding observations may not the words *μητε δια λογου, μητε δι' επιστολης, ως δι' ημων,* be construed to signify quasi *nos quid tale aut dixerimus aut scripserimus\**, intimating that their words had been mistaken, and that they had in truth said or written no such thing.

## CHAP.

\* Should a contrary interpretation be preferred, I do not think that it implies the conclusion that a false epistle had then been published in the apostle's name. It will completely satisfy the allusion in the text to allow, that some one or other at Thessalonica had pretended to have been told by St. Paul and his companions, or to have seen a letter from them, in which they had said, that the day of Christ was at hand. In like manner as Acts xv. 1, 24, it is recorded that some had pretended to have received instructions from the church at Jerusalem, which

## CHAP. XI.

## THE FIRST EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY.

**F**ROM the third verse of the first chapter, “as I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus when I went into Macedonia,” it is evident that this epistle was written soon after St. Paul had gone to Macedonia from Ephesus. Dr. Benson fixes its date to the time of St. Paul’s journey, recorded in the beginning of the twentieth chapter of the Acts: “And after the uproar (excited “by Demetrius at Ephesus) was ceased, “Paul called unto him the disciples, and “embraced them, and departed for to go “into Macedonia.” And in this opinion Dr. Benson is followed by Michaelis, as he was

which had not been received “to whom they gave no “such commandment.” And thus Dr. Benson interpreted the passage *μητε θροισθαι, μητε δια πνευματος, μητε δια λογου, μητε δι επισολης, ως δι ημων*, “nor be dismayed by any “revelation, or discourse, or epistle, which any one “shall pretend to have heard or received from us.”

preceded by the greater part of the commentators who have considered the question. There is, however, one objection to the hypothesis which these learned men appear to me to have overlooked ; and it is no other than this, that the superscription of the second epistle to the Corinthians seems to prove, that at the time St. Paul is supposed by them to have written this epistle to Timothy, Timothy in truth was with St. Paul in Macedonia. Paul, as it is related in the Acts, left Ephesus “ for to go into Macedonia.” When he had got into Macedonia he wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians. Concerning this point there exists little variety of opinion. It is plainly indicated by the contents of the epistle. It is also strongly implied that the epistle was written *soon* after the apostle’s arrival in Macedonia ; for he begins his letter by a train of reflection, referring to his persecutions in Asia as to recent transactions, as to dangers from which he had lately been delivered. But in the salutation with which the epistle opens *Timothy is joined with St. Paul*, and consequently could not

at



at that time be “left behind at Ephesus.” And as to the only solution of the difficulty which can be thought of, viz. that Timothy, though he was left behind at Ephesus upon St. Paul’s departure from Asia, yet might follow him so soon after, as to come up with the apostle in Macedonia, before he wrote his epistle to the Corinthians; that supposition is inconsistent with the terms and tenor of the epistle throughout. For the writer speaks uniformly of his intention to return to Timothy at Ephesus, and not of his expecting Timothy to come to him in Macedonia: “These things write I unto thee, *hoping to come unto thee shortly*; but “if I tarry long that thou mayest know “how thou oughtest to behave thyself” (chap. iii. ver. 14, 15). *Till I come* give “attendance to reading, to exhortation, to “doctrine” (chap. iv. ver. 13).

Since, therefore, the leaving of Timothy behind at Ephesus, when Paul went into Macedonia, suits not with any journey into Macedonia recorded in the Acts, I concur with Bishop Pearson in placing the date of this epistle, and the journey referred to in

it, at a period subsequent to St. Paul's first imprisonment at Rome, and consequently subsequent to the æra, up to which the Acts of the Apostles brings his history. The only difficulty which attends our opinion is, that St. Paul must, according to us, have come to Ephesus after his liberation at Rome, contrary as it should seem to what he foretold to the Ephesian elders, "that they should see his face no more." And it is to save the infallibility of this prediction, and for no other reason of weight, that an earlier date is assigned to this epistle. The prediction itself however, when considered in connection with the circumstances under which it was delivered, does not seem to demand so much anxiety. The words in question are found in the twenty-fifth verse of the twentieth chapter of the Acts: "And now behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more." In the twenty-second and twenty-third verses of the same chapter, i. e. two verses before, the apostle makes this declaration: "And now behold, I go bound in the spirit  
 " unto

“ unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things  
 “ that shall befall me there ; save that the  
 “ Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, say-  
 “ ing, that bonds and afflictions abide me.”  
 This “ witnessing of the Holy Ghost” was  
 undoubtedly prophetic and supernatural.  
 But it went no farther than to foretel that  
 bonds and afflictions awaited him. And I  
 can very well conceive, that this might be  
 all which was communicated to the apostle  
 by extraordinary revelation, and that the  
 rest was the conclusion of his own mind,  
 the desponding inference which he drew  
 from strong and repeated intimations of  
 approaching danger. And the expression  
 “ I know,” which St. Paul here uses, does  
 not perhaps, when applied to future events  
 affecting himself, convey an assertion so po-  
 sitive and absolute as we may at first sight  
 apprehend. In the first chapter of the  
 epistle to the Philippians and the twenty-  
 fifth verse, “ I know,” says he, “ that I shall  
 “ abide and continue with you all for your  
 “ joy and furtherance of faith.” Notwith-  
 standing this strong declaration, in the se-  
 cond chapter and twenty-third verse of this

same epistle, and speaking also of the very same event, he is content to use a language of some doubt and uncertainty: "Him  
 " therefore I hope to send presently, so soon  
 " *as I shall see how it will go with me*; but  
 " *I trust* in the Lord that I also myself shall  
 " come shortly." And a few verses preceding these, he not only seems to doubt of his safety, but almost to despair; to contemplate the possibility at least of his condemnation and martyrdom: "Yea, and if  
 " I be offered upon the sacrifice and service  
 " of your faith, I joy and rejoice with you  
 " all."

### No. I.

But can we show that St. Paul visited Ephesus after his liberation at Rome? or rather, can we collect any hints from his other letters which make it probable that he did? If we can, then we have a *coincidence*. If we cannot, we have only an unauthorized supposition, to which the exigency of the case compels us to resort. Now, for this purpose, let us examine the epistle to the Philippians and the epistle to Philemon.

" These

These two epistles purport to be written whilst St. Paul was yet a prisoner at Rome. To the Philippians he writes as follows: "I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly." To Philemon, who was a Colossian, he gives this direction: "But withal, prepare me also a lodging, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you." An inspection of the map will show us that Colosse was a city of the Lesser Asia, lying eastward, and at no great distance from Ephesus. Philippi was on the other, i. e. the western side of the *Ægean* sea. If the apostle executed his purpose; if, in pursuance of the intention expressed in his letter to Philemon, he came to Colosse soon after he was set at liberty at Rome, it is very improbable that he would omit to visit Ephesus, which lay so near to it, and where he had spent three years of his ministry. As he was also under a promise to the church of Philippi to see them "shortly;" if he passed from Colosse to Philippi, or from Philippi to Colosse, he could hardly avoid taking Ephesus in his way.

## No. II.

Chap. v. ver. 9. "Let not a widow be  
 " taken into the number under threescore,  
 " years old."

This accords with the account delivered  
 in the sixth chapter of the Acts. "And in  
 " those days, when the number of the dis-  
 " ciples was multiplied, there arose a mur-  
 " muring of the Grecians against the He-  
 " brews, *because their widows were neglected*  
 " *in the daily ministration.*" It appears that  
 from the first formation of the Christian  
 church, provision was made out of the pub-  
 lic funds of the society for the indigent  
*widows* who belonged to it. The history,  
 we have seen, distinctly records the exist-  
 ence of such an institution at Jerusalem, a  
 few years after our Lord's ascension; and is  
 led to the mention of it very incidentally,  
 viz. by a dispute, of which it was the occa-  
 sion, and which produced important conse-  
 quences to the Christian community. The  
 epistle, without being suspected of borrow-  
 ing from the history, refers, briefly indeed,  
 but

but decisively, to a similar establishment, subsisting some years afterwards at Ephesus. This agreement indicates that both writings were founded upon real circumstances.

But, in this article, the material thing to be noticed is the mode of expression : “ Let not a widow be taken into the number.” No previous account or explanation is given, to which these words, “ into the number,” can refer ; but the direction comes concisely and unpreparedly. “ Let not a widow be taken into the number.” Now this is the way in which a man writes, who is conscious that he is writing to persons already acquainted with the subject of his letter ; and who, he knows, will readily apprehend and apply what he says by virtue of their being so acquainted ; but it is not the way in which a man writes upon any other occasion ; and least of all, in which a man would draw up a feigned letter, or introduce a supposititious fact\*.

No,

\* It is not altogether unconnected with our general purpose to remark, in the passage before us, the selection and reserve which St. Paul recommends to the governors

## No. III.

Chap. iii. ver. 2, 3. "A bishop must be  
 " blameless, the husband of one wife, vigi-  
 " lant,

vernors of the church of Ephesus, in the bestowing relief upon the poor, because it refutes a calumny which has been insinuated, that the liberality of the first Christians was an artifice to catch converts; or one of the temptations, however, by which the idle and mendicant were drawn into this society: "Let not a widow  
 " be taken into the number under threescore years old,  
 " having been the wife of one man, well reported of for  
 " her good works; if she have brought up children, if  
 " she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the  
 " saints' feet; if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have  
 " diligently followed every good work! but the younger  
 " widows refuse" (v. 9, 10, 11). And, in another place, "If any man or woman that believeth have wi-  
 " dows, let them relieve them, and let not the church  
 " be charged, that it may relieve them that are widows  
 " indeed." And to the same effect, or rather more to our present purpose, the apostle writes in his second epistle to the Thessalonians: "Even when we were  
 " with you, this we commanded you, that if any would  
 " not work, neither let him eat," i. e. at the public expence? "for we hear that there are some which walk  
 " among you disorderly, *working not at all*, but are busy-  
 " bodies; now them that are such, we command and  
 " exhort, by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness  
 " they



“ lant, sober, of good behaviour, given to  
 “ hospitality, apt to teach; not given to  
 “ wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy  
 “ lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not co-  
 “ vetous; one that ruleth well his own  
 “ house.”

“ *No striker:*” That is the article which I single out from the collection as evincing the antiquity at least, if not the genuineness, of the epistle, because it is an article which no man would have made the subject of caution who lived in an advanced æra of the church. It agreed with the infancy of the society, and with no other state of it. After the government of the church had acquired the dignified form which it soon and naturally assumed, this injunction could have no place. Would a person who lived under a hierarchy, such as the Christian

“ they work, and eat their own bread.” Could a designing or dissolute poor take advantage of bounty regulated with so much caution; or could the mind which dictated those sober and prudent directions be influenced in his recommendations of public charity by any other than the purest motives of beneficence?

hierarchy

hierarchy became when it had settled into a regular establishment, have thought it necessary to prescribe concerning the qualification of a bishop, "that he should be no striker?" And this injunction would be equally alien from the imagination of the writer, whether he wrote in his own character, or personated that of an apostle.

## No. IV.

Chap. v. ver. 23. "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake, and thine often infirmities."

Imagine an impostor sitting down to forge an epistle in the name of St. Paul. Is it credible that it should come into his head to give such a direction as this; so remote from every thing of doctrine or discipline, every thing of public concern to the religion or the church, or to any sect, order, or party in it, and from every purpose with which such an epistle could be written? It seems to me that nothing but reality, that is, the real valetudinary situation of a real person,

person, could have suggested a thought of so domestic a nature.

But if the peculiarity of the advice be observable, the place in which it stands is more so. The context is this: "Lay hands  
 " suddenly on no man, neither be partaker  
 " of other men's sins; keep thyself pure;  
 " drink no longer water, but use a little  
 " wine for thy stomach's sake, and thine  
 " often infirmities: some men's sins are  
 " open beforehand, going before to judg-  
 " ment; and some men they follow after."  
 The direction to Timothy about his diet stands between two sentences, as wide from the subject as possible. The train of thought seems to be broken to let it in. Now when does this happen? It happens when a man writes as he remembers; when he puts down an article that occurs the moment it occurs, lest he should afterwards forget it. Of this the passage before us bears strongly the appearance. In actual letters, in the negligence of a real correspondence, examples of this kind frequently take place; seldom I believe in any other production. For the moment a man re-  
 regards

gards what he writes as a *composition*, which the author of a forgery would, of all others, be the first to do, notions of order, in the arrangement and succession of his thoughts, present themselves to his judgment, and guide his pen.

## No. V.

Chap. i. ver. 15, 16. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. Howbeit, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe in him to life everlasting."

What was the mercy which St. Paul here commemorates, and what was the crime of which he accuses himself, is apparent from the verses immediately preceding: "I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, *who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor*"

“*cutor and injurious*; but I obtained *mercy*,  
 “because I did it ignorantly in unbelief”  
 (ch. i. ver. 12, 13). The whole quotation  
 plainly refers to St. Paul’s original enmity to  
 the Christian name, the interposition of  
 providence in his conversion, and his sub-  
 sequent designation to the ministry of the  
 gospel; and by this reference affirms in-  
 deed the substance of the apostle’s history  
 delivered in the Acts. But what in the  
 passage strikes my mind most powerfully,  
 is the observation that is raised out of the  
 fact: “For this cause I obtained mercy,  
 “that in me first Jesus Christ might shew  
 “forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to  
 “them which should hereafter believe on  
 “him to life everlasting.” It is a just and so-  
 lemn reflection, springing from the circum-  
 stances of the author’s conversion, or rather  
 from the impression which that great event  
 had left upon his memory. It will be said,  
 perhaps, that an impostor, acquainted with  
 St. Paul’s history, may have put such a sen-  
 timent into his mouth; or, what is the same  
 thing, into a letter drawn up in his name.  
 But where, we may ask, is such an impos-

tor to be found? The piety, the truth, the benevolence of the thought ought to protect it from this imputation. For, though we should allow that one of the great masters of the ancient tragedy could have given to his scene a sentiment as virtuous and as elevated as this is, and, at the same time as appropriate, and as well suited to the particular situation of the person who delivers it; yet whoever is conversant in these enquiries will acknowledge, that to do this in a fictitious production is beyond the reach of the understandings which have been employed upon any *fabrications* that have come down to us under Christian names.

## CHAP. XII.

## THE SECOND EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY.

## No. I.

**I**T was the uniform tradition of the primitive church, that St. Paul visited Rome twice, and twice there suffered imprisonment ; and that he was put to death at Rome at the conclusion of his second imprisonment. This opinion concerning St. Paul's *two* journeys to Rome, is confirmed by a great variety of hints and allusions in the epistle before us, compared with what fell from the apostle's pen in other letters purporting to have been written from Rome. That our present epistle was written whilst St. Paul was a *prisoner*, is distinctly intimated by the eighth verse of the first chapter : " Be not thou therefore ashamed of the  
 " testimony of our Lord, nor of me his pri-  
 " soner." And whilst he was a prisoner *at Rome*, by the sixteenth and seventeenth

verses of the same chapter: "The Lord  
 " give mercy unto the house of Onesipho-  
 " rus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not  
 " ashamed of my chain: but when he was  
 " in Rome he sought me out very dili-  
 " gently, and found me." Since it appears  
 from the former quotation that St. Paul  
 wrote this epistle in confinement, it will  
 hardly admit of doubt that the word *chain*,  
 in the latter quotation, refers to that con-  
 finement; the chain by which he was *then*  
 bound, the custody in which he was then  
 kept. And if the word chain designate the  
 author's confinement at the time of writing  
 the epistle, the next words determine it to  
 have been written from Rome: "He was  
 " not ashamed of my chain; but when he  
 " was in Rome he sought me out very dili-  
 " gently." Now that it *was* not written  
 during the apostle's first imprisonment at  
 Rome, or during the same imprisonment in  
 which the epistles to the Ephesians, the Co-  
 lossians, the Philippians, and Philemon,  
 were written, may be gathered, with con-  
 siderable evidence, from a comparison of  
 these several epistles with the present.

I. In



I. In the former epistles the author confidently looked forward to his liberation from confinement, and his speedy departure from Rome. He tells the Philippians (ch. ii, ver. 24,) "I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly." Philemon he bids to prepare for him a lodging; "for I trust," says he, "that through your prayers, I shall be given unto you" (ver. 22.) In the epistle before us he holds a language extremely different: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day" (ch. iv. ver 6—8).

II. When the former epistles were written from Rome, Timothy was with St. Paul; and is joined with him in writing to the Colossians, the Philippians, and to Philemon. The present epistle implies that he was absent.

III. In the former epistles Demas was

with St. Paul at Rome: "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you." In the epistle now before us; "Demas hath forsaken him, having loved this present world, and is gone to Thessalonica."

IV, In the former epistle, Mark was with St. Paul, and joins in saluting the Colossians. In the present epistle, Timothy is ordered to "bring him with him, for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (ch. iv. ver. 11.)

The case of Timothy and of Mark might be very well accounted for, by supposing the present epistle to have been written *before* the others; so that Timothy, who is here exhorted "to come shortly unto him," (ch. iv. ver. 9.) might have arrived, and that Mark, "whom he was to bring with him," (ch. iv. ver. 11.) might have also reached Rome in sufficient time to have been with St. Paul when the four epistles were written: but then such a supposition is inconsistent with what is said of Demas, by which the posteriority of this to the other epistles is strongly indicated: for in the other epistles Demas was with St. Paul, in  
the

the present he hath "forſaken him, and is " gone to Theſſalonica." The oppoſition alſo of ſentiment, with reſpect to the event of the perſecution, is hardly reconcilable to the ſame imprifonment.

The two following conſiderations, which were firſt ſuggeſted upon this queſtion by Ludovicus Capellus, are ſtill more concluſive.

1. In the twentieth verſe of the fourth chapter, St. Paul informs Timothy, " that " Eraſtus abode at Corinth," *Εραſτος ἐμείνεν ἐν Κορινθῳ*. The form of expreſſion implies, that Eraſtus had ſtaid behind at Corinth, when St. Paul left it. But this could not be meant of any journey from Corinth which St. Paul took prior to his firſt imprifonment at Rome; for when Paul departed from Corinth, as related in the twentieth chapter of the Aſts, Timothy was with him: and this was the laſt time the apoſtle left Corinth before his coming to Rome; becauſe he left it to proceed on his way to Jeruſalem, ſoon after his arrival at which place he was taken into cuſtody, and continued in that cuſtody till he was carried to

Cæsar's tribunal. There could be no need therefore to inform Timothy that "Erastus" "staid behind at Corinth" upon this occasion, because, if the fact was so, it must have been known to Timothy who was present, as well as to St. Paul.

2. In the same verse our epistle also states the following article: "Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." When St. Paul passed through Miletum on his way to Jerusalem, as related Acts xx. Trophimus was not left behind, but accompanied him to that city. He was indeed the occasion of the uproar at Jerusalem, in consequence of which St. Paul was apprehended; for "they had seen," says the historian, "before with him in the city, Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple." This was evidently the last time of Paul's being at Miletus before his first imprisonment; for, as hath been said, after his apprehension at Jerusalem, he remained in custody till he was sent to Rome.

In these two articles we have a journey referred to, which must have taken place  
subsequent

subsequent to the conclusion of St. Luke's history, and of course after St. Paul's liberation from his first imprisonment. The epistle therefore, which contains this reference, since it appears from other parts of it to have been written whilst St. Paul was a prisoner at Rome, proves that he had returned to that city again, and undergone there a second imprisonment.

I do not produce these particulars for the sake of the support which they lend to the testimony of the fathers concerning St. Paul's *second* imprisonment, but to remark their consistency and agreement with one another. They are all resolvable into one supposition : and although the supposition itself be in some sort only negative, viz. that the epistle was not written during St. Paul's first residence at Rome, but in some future imprisonment in that city ; yet is the consistency not less worthy of observation ; for the epistle touches upon names and circumstances connected with the date and with the history of the first imprisonment, and mentioned in letters written during that imprisonment, and so touches upon them,

as to leave what is said of one consistent with what is said of others, and consistent also with what is said of them in different epistles. Had one of these circumstances been so described, as to have fixed the date of the epistle to the first imprisonment, it would have involved the rest in contradiction. And when the number and particularity of the articles which have been brought together under this head are considered; and when it is considered also, that the comparisons we have formed amongst them, were in all probability neither provided for, nor thought of, by the writer of the epistle, it will be deemed something very like the effect of truth, that no invincible repugnancy is perceived between them.

## No. II.

In the Acts of the Apostles, in the sixteenth chapter, and at the first verse, we are told that Paul “ came to Derbe and  
 “ Lystra, and behold a certain disciple was  
 “ there named Timotheus, the son of a cer-  
 “ tain

"tain woman, which was a Jewess, and be-  
 "lieved; but his father was a Greek." In  
 the epistle before us, in the first chapter  
 and at the fifth verse, St. Paul writes to Timo-  
 thy thus: "Greatly desiring to see thee, be-  
 "ing mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled  
 "with joy, when I call to remembrance the  
 "unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt  
 "first in thy grandmother Lois, *and thy*  
 "*mother Eunice*; and I am persuaded that  
 "in thee also." Here we have a fair un-  
 forced example of coincidence. In the his-  
 tory Timothy was the "son of a Jewess  
 "that believed:" in the epistle St. Paul ap-  
 plauds "the *faith* which dwelt in his mother  
 "Eunice." In the history it is said of the  
 mother, "that she was a Jewess, and be-  
 "lieved;" of the father, "that he was a  
 "Greek." Now when it is said of the mo-  
 ther *alone* "that she believed," the father  
 being nevertheless mentioned in the same  
 sentence, we are led to suppose of the father  
 that he did not believe, i. e. either that he  
 was dead, or that he remained unconverted.  
 Agreeably hereunto, whilst praise is bestow-  
 ed in the epistle upon one parent, and upon  
 her

her sincerity in the faith, no notice is taken of the other. The mention of the grandmother is the addition of a circumstance not found in the history; but it is a circumstance which, as well as the names of the parties, might naturally be expected to be known to the apostle, though overlooked by his historian.

### No. III.

Chap. iii. ver. 15. "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation."

This verse discloses a circumstance which agrees exactly with what is intimated in the quotation from the Acts, adduced in the last number. In that quotation it is recorded of Timothy's mother, "that she was a Jewess." This description is virtually, though, I am satisfied, undesignedly, recognized in the epistle, when Timothy is reminded in it, "that from a child he had known the holy scriptures." "The holy scriptures" undoubtedly meant the scriptures of the Old Testament. The expression bears that sense



sense in every place in which it occurs. Those of the New had not yet acquired the name, not to mention, that in Timothy's childhood, probably none of them existed. In what manner then could Timothy have known "from a child" the Jewish scriptures, had he not been born, on one side or on both, of Jewish parentage? Perhaps he was not less likely to be carefully instructed in them, for that his mother alone professed that religion.

#### No. IV.

Chap. ii. ver. 22. "Flee also *youthful* lusts, but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

"*Flee also youthful lusts.*" The suitability of this precept to the age of the person to whom it is addressed, is gathered from 1 Tim. ch. iv. ver. 12; "Let no man despise thy youth." Nor do I deem the less of this coincidence, because the propriety resides in a single epithet; or because this one precept is joined with, and followed by, a train of others, not more applicable to Timothy,

mothy, than to any ordinary convert. It is in these transient and cursory allusions that the argument is best founded. When a writer dwells and rest upon a point in which some coincidence is discerned, it may be doubted whether he himself had not fabricated the conformity, and was endeavouring to display and set it off. But when the reference is contained in a single word, unobserved perhaps by most readers, the writer passing on to other subjects, as unconscious that he had hit upon a correspondence, or unsolicitous whether it were remarked or not, we may be pretty well assured that no fraud was exercised, no imposition intended.

## No. V.

Chap. iii. ver. 10, 11. "But thou hast  
 "fully known my doctrine, manner of life,  
 "purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity,  
 "patience, persecutions, afflictions, which  
 "came unto me *at Antioch, at Iconium, at*  
 "*Lystra*; what persecutions I endured: but  
 "out of them all the Lord delivered me."

The Antioch here mentioned was not  
 Antioch

Antioch the capital of Syria, where Paul and Barnabas resided “a long time;” but Antioch in Pisidia, to which place Paul and Barnabas came in their first apostolic progress, and where Paul delivered a memorable discourse, which is preserved in the thirteenth chapter of the Acts. At this Antioch the history relates, that “the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, *and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas*, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto *Iconium* . . . . And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed; but the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil-affected against the brethren. Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the multitude of the city was divided; and

“ and part held with the Jews, and part with  
 “ the apostles. And when there was an  
 “ assault made both of the Gentiles and also  
 “ of the Jews, with their rulers, *to use them*  
 “ *despitefully and to stone* them, they were  
 “ aware of it, and fled unto *Lystra* and *Derbe*,  
 “ cities of *Lycaonia*, and unto the region that  
 “ lieth round about, and there they preached  
 “ the gospel . . . . And there came thither  
 “ certain Jews from *Antioch* and *Iconium*,  
 “ who persuaded the people, and having  
 “ stoned Paul, drew him out of the city,  
 “ supposing he had been dead. Howbeit,  
 “ as the disciples stood round about him, he  
 “ rose up and came into the city ; and the  
 “ next day he departed with *Barnabas* to  
 “ *Derbe* : and when they had preached the  
 “ gospel in that city, and had taught many,  
 “ they returned again to *Lystra*, and to *Iconium*,  
 “ and to *Antioch*.” This account  
 comprises the period to which the allusion  
 in the epistle is to be referred. We have so  
 far therefore a conformity between the his-  
 tory and the epistle, that St. Paul is asserted  
 in the history to have suffered persecutions in  
 the three cities, his persecutions at which

are appealed to in the epistle; and not only so, but to have suffered these persecutions both in immediate succession, and in the order in which the cities are mentioned in the epistle. The conformity also extends to another circumstance. In the apostolic history Lystra and Derbe are commonly mentioned together: in the quotation from the epistle Lystra is mentioned, and not Derbe. And the distinction will appear on this occasion to be accurate; for St. Paul is here enumerating his persecutions: and although he underwent grievous persecutions in each of the three cities through which he passed to Derbe, at Derbe itself he met with none: "The next day he departed," says the historian, "to Derbe; and when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra." The epistle, therefore, in the names of the cities, in the order in which they are enumerated, and in the place at which the enumeration stops, corresponds exactly with the history.

But a second question remains, namely, how these persecutions were "known" to

A a

Timothy,

### 354 SECOND EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY.

Timothy, or why the apostle should recal these in particular to his remembrance, rather than many other persecutions with which his ministry had been attended. When some time, probably three years, afterwards (*vide* Pearson's *Annales Paulinas*), St. Paul made a second journey through the same country, "in order to go again and visit the brethren in every city where he had preached the word of the Lord," we read, Acts, chap. xvi. ver. 1. that, "when he came to Derbe and Lystra, behold a certain disciple was there named Timothy." One or other therefore of these cities was the place of Timothy's abode. We read moreover that he was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium; so that he must have been well acquainted with these places. Also again, when Paul came to Derbe and Lystra, Timothy was already a disciple: "Behold a certain disciple was there named Timothy." He must therefore have been converted *before*. But since it is expressly stated in the epistle, that Timothy was converted by St. Paul himself, that he was "his  
" own.

"own son in the faith;" it follows that he must have been converted by him upon his former journey into those parts; which was the very time when the apostle underwent the persecutions referred to in the epistle. Upon the whole then, persecutions at the several cities named in the epistle are expressly recorded in the Acts; and Timothy's knowledge of this part of St. Paul's history, which knowledge is appealed to in the epistle, is fairly deduced from the place of his abode, and the time of his conversion. It may farther be observed, that it is probable from this account, that St. Paul was in the midst of these persecutions when Timothy became known to him. No wonder then that the apostle, though in a letter written long afterwards, should remind his favourite convert of those scenes of affliction and distress under which they first met.

Although this coincidence, as to the names of the cities, be more specific and direct than many which we have pointed out, yet I apprehend there is no just reason for thinking it to be artificial; for had the writer of the epistle sought a coincidence

with the history upon this head, and searched the Acts of the Apostles for the purpose, I conceive he would have sent us at once to Philippi and Theſſalonica, where Paul suffered persecution, and where from what is stated, it may easily be gathered that Timothy accompanied him, rather than have appealed to persecutions as known to Timothy, in the account of which persecutions Timothy's presence is not mentioned; it not being till after one entire chapter, and in the history of a journey three years future to this, that Timothy's name occurs in the Acts of the Apostles for the first time.



## CHAP. XIII.

## THE EPISTLE TO TITUS.

## No. I. •

A VERY characteristic circumstance in this epistle, is the quotation from Epimenides, chap. i. ver. 12 : “ One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, flow bellies.”

*Κρητες αι ψευσαι, κακα θηρια, γαστερες αργαι.*

I call this quotation characteristic, because no writer in the New Testament, except St. Paul, appealed to heathen testimony ; and because St. Paul repeatedly did so. In his celebrated speech at Athens, preserved in the seventeenth chapter of the Acts, he tells his audience, that “ in God we live, and move, and have our being ; as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also his offspring.”

*—τε γαρ και γενος εσμεν.*

The reader will perceive much similarity of manner in these two passages. The reference in the speech is to a heathen poet; it is the same in the epistle. In the speech the apostle urges his hearers with the authority of a poet *of their own*; in the epistle he avails himself of the same advantage. Yet there is a variation, which shows that the hint of inserting a quotation in the epistle was not, as it may be suspected, borrowed from seeing the like practice attributed to St. Paul in the history; and it is this, that in the epistle the author cited is called a *prophet*, "one of themselves, even a *prophet* of their own." Whatever might be the reason for calling Epimenides a prophet; whether the names of poet and prophet were occasionally convertible; whether Epimenides in particular had obtained that title, as Grotius seems to have proved; or whether the appellation was given to him, in this instance, as having delivered a description of the Cretan character, which the future state of morals among them verified; whatever was the reason (and any of these reasons will account for the variation, supposing St. Paul

to have been the author), one point is plain, namely, if the epistle had been forged, and the author had inserted a quotation in it merely from having seen an example of the same kind in a speech ascribed to St. Paul, he would so far have imitated his original, as to have introduced his quotation in the same manner, that is, he would have given to Epimenides the title which he saw there given to Aratus. The other side of the alternative is, that the history took the hint from the epistle. But that the author of the Acts of the Apostles had not the epistle to Titus before him, at least that he did not use it as one of the documents or materials of his narrative, is rendered nearly certain by the observation that the name of Titus does not once occur in his book.

It is well known, and was remarked by St. Jerome, that the apothegm in the fifteenth chapter of the Corinthians, "evil communications corrupt good manners," is an Iambic of Menander's:

Φθειρουσιν ηβη χρησθ' ομιλιαι κακααι.

Here we have another unaffected instance of the same turn and habit of composition.

A a 4

Probably

Probably there are some hitherto unnoticed; and more, which the loss of the original authors render impossible to be now ascertained.

## No. II.

There exists a visible affinity between the epistle to Titus and the first epistle to Timothy. Both letters were addressed to persons left by the writer to preside in their respective churches during his absence. Both letters are principally occupied in describing the qualifications to be sought for, in those whom they should appoint to offices in the church; and the ingredients of this description are in both letters nearly the same. Timothy and Titus are likewise cautioned against the same prevailing corruptions, and, in particular, against the same misdirection of their cares and studies. This affinity obtains, not only in the subject of the letters, which, from the similarity of situation in the persons to whom they were addressed, might be expected to be somewhat alike, but extends, in a great variety of instances, to the phrases and expressions. The writer accosts his two friends with the same  
salu-

salutation, and passes on to the business of his letter by the same transition.

“ Unto Timothy, *my own son in the faith*, grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord: *as I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia,*” &c. 1 Tim. chap. i. ver. 2, 3.

“ To Titus, *mine own son after the common faith*, grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour: *for this cause left I thee in Crete.*” Tit. chap. i. ver. 4, 5.

If Timothy was “ not to give heed to *fables* and endless *genealogies*, which minister *questions*,” 1 Tim. chap. i. ver. 4; Titus also was to avoid foolish *questions*, and *genealogies*, and contentions” (chap. iii. ver. 9); “ and was to rebuke them sharply, *not giving heed to Jewish fables*” (chap. i. ver. 14). If Timothy was to be a pattern (*τυπος*), 1 Tim. chap. iv. ver. 12; so was Titus (chap. ii. ver. 7). If Timothy was to “ let no man despise his youth,” 1 Tim. chap. iv. ver. 12; Titus also was to “ let no man despise him” (chap. ii. ver. 15).

This

This verbal consent is also observable in some very peculiar expressions, which have no relation to the particular character of Timothy or Titus.

The phrase, "it is a faithful saying," (*πιστος ο λογος*), made use of to preface some sentence upon which the writer lays a more than ordinary stress, occurs three times in the first epistle to Timothy, once in the second, and once in the epistle before us, and in no other part of St. Paul's writings; and it is remarkable that these three epistles were probably all written towards the conclusion of his life; and that they are the only epistles which were written after his first imprisonment at Rome.

The same observation belongs to another singularity of expression, and that is in the epithet "*sound*," (*υγιαινων*), as applied to words or doctrine. It is thus used, twice in the first epistle to Timothy, twice in the second, and three times in the epistle to Titus, beside two cognate expressions *υγιαινοντας τη πιστει* and *λογον υγιη*, and it is found, in the same sense, in no other part of the New Testament.

The

The phrase "God our Saviour" stands in nearly the same predicament. It is repeated three times in the first epistle to Timothy, as many in the epistle to Titus, and in no other book of the New Testament occurs at all, except once in the epistle of Jude.

Similar terms, intermixed indeed with others, are employed, in the two epistles, in enumerating the qualifications required in those who should be advanced to stations of authority in the church.

"A bishop must be blameless, *the husband of one wife*, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, *given to hospitality*, apt to teach, *not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre*; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous, one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity \*," 1 Tim. chap. iii. ver. 2—4.

"If any be *blameless, the husband of one wife*, having faithful children, not accused

\* "Διὸ καὶ τοὶ ἐπίσκοποι ἀνεπιληπτοὶ ἵεναι, μίας γυναικὸς ἀνδρᾶ, πεφάλοιοι, σωφροῦντα, κοσμίους, φιλοξένοι, διδακτικοί, μὴ παροῖνοι, μὴ πλεκτηί, μὴ αἰσχροκερδεῖς ἀλλ' ἐπειρηκεῖ, σμαχῶν, ἀσεβητῶν; τὰ ἴδια οἶκος καλῶς προϊστάμενος, τέκνα ἔχοντα ἐν ὑποταγῇ μετὰ πάσης σεμνότητος."

“ of riot, or unruly ; for a bishop must be  
 “ blameless as the steward of God, not self-  
 “ willed, not soon angry, *not given to wine,*  
 “ *no striker, not given to filthy lucre, but a*  
 “ *lover of hospitality,* a lover of good men,  
 “ sober, just, holy, temperate\*.” Titus,  
 ch. i. ver. 6—8.

The most natural account which can be given of these resemblances, is to suppose that the two epistles were written nearly at the same time, and whilst the same ideas and phrases dwelt in the writer's mind. Let us enquire therefore, whether the notes of time, extant in the two epistles, in any manner favour this supposition.

We have seen that it was necessary to refer the first epistle to Timothy to a date subsequent to St. Paul's first imprisonment at Rome, because there was no journey into Macedonia prior to that event, which accorded with the circumstance of leaving “ Timothy behind at Ephesus.” The jour-

\* “ Εἰ τις ἐστὶ ἀνγκλήσις, μὴς ὑψαικός αὐτοῦ, τινα ἔχων πῖνα, μὴ ἐν κατηγορίᾳ αἰσῆας, ἢ ἀνυποτακτῆς. Διὶ γὰρ τοῖς ἐπισκοποῖς ἀνγκλήσειναι, ὡς Θεοὺς οἰκοδομοῦν, μὴ αὐθαδέ, μὴ ὀργίλοι, μὴ παροῖνοι, μὴ πλεήνην, μὴ ἀισχροκερδῆ· ἀλλὰ φιλοξένοι, φιλαγαθοί, σωφροῖναι, δικαιοί, ὅσιοι, ἡγχατοῖ.”



ney of St. Paul from Crete, alluded to in the epistle before us, and in which Titus "was left in Crete to set in order the things that were wanting," must, in like manner, be carried to the period which intervened between his first and second imprisonment. For the history, which reaches, we know, to the time of St. Paul's first imprisonment, contains no account of his going to Crete, except upon his voyage as a prisoner to Rome; and that this could not be the occasion referred to in our epistle is evident from hence, that when St. Paul wrote this epistle, he appears to have been at liberty; whereas after that voyage, he continued for two years at least in confinement. Again, it is agreed that St. Paul wrote his first epistle to Timothy from Macedonia: "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went (or came) into Macedonia." And that he was in these parts, *i. e.* in this peninsula, when he wrote the epistle to Titus, is rendered probable by his directing Titus to come to him to Nicopolis: "When I shall send Artemas unto thee or Tychicus, be diligent (make haste) to come unto me

“me to Nicopolis; for I have determined  
 “there to winter.” The most noted city  
 of that name was in Epirus, near to Actium.  
 And I think the form of speaking, as well  
 as the nature of the case, renders it proba-  
 ble, that the writer was at Nicopolis, or in  
 the neighbourhood thereof, when he dictated  
 this direction to Titus.

Upon the whole, if we may be allowed  
 to suppose that St. Paul, after his liberation  
 at Rome, sailed into Asia, taking Crete in  
 his way; that from Asia, and from Ephesus,  
 the capital of that country, he proceeded into  
 Macedonia, and crossing the peninsula in his  
 progress, came into the neighbourhood of  
 Nicopolis; we have a route which falls in  
 with every thing. It executes the intention  
 expressed by the apostle of visiting Colosse  
 and Philippi as soon as he should be set at  
 liberty at Rome. It allows him to leave  
 “Titus at Crete,” and “Timothy at Ephe-  
 “sus, as he went into Macedonia:” and to  
 write to both not long after from the penin-  
 sula of Greece, and probably the neighbour-  
 hood of Nicopolis: thus bringing together  
 the dates of these two letters, and thereby

accounting for that affinity between them, both in subject and language, which our remarks have pointed out. I confess that the journey which we have thus traced out for St. Paul, is, in a great measure, hypothetic ; but it should be observed, that it is a species of consistency, which seldom belongs to falsehood, to admit of an hypothesis, which includes a great number of independent circumstances without contradiction.

## CHAP. XIV.

## THE EPISTLE TO PHILEMON.

## No. I.

**T**HE singular correspondency between this epistle and that to the Colossians has been remarked already. An assertion in the epistle to the Colossians, viz. that "Onesimus was one of them," is verified by the epistle to Philemon; and is verified, not by any mention of Colosse, any the most distant intimation concerning the place of Philemon's abode, but singly by stating Onesimus to be Philemon's servant, and by joining in the salutation Philemon with Archippus; for this Archippus, when we go back to the epistle to the Colossians, appears to have been an inhabitant of that city, and, as it should seem, to have held an office of authority in that church. The case stands thus. Take the epistle to the Colossians alone, and no circumstance is discoverable which makes out the assertion, that Onesimus was

“one of them.” Take the epistle to Philemon alone, and nothing at all appears concerning the place to which Philemon or his servant Onesimus belonged. For any thing that is said in the epistle, Philemon might have been a Thessalonian, a Philippian, or an Ephesian, as well as a Colossian. Put the two epistles together and the matter is clear. The reader perceives a *junction* of circumstances, which ascertains the conclusion at once. Now, all that is necessary to be added in this place is, that this correspondence evinces the genuineness of one epistle, as well as of the other. It is like comparing the two parts of a cloven tally. Coincidence proves the authenticity of both.

## No. II.

And this coincidence is perfect; not only in the main article of showing, by implication, Onesimus to be a Colossian, but in many dependant circumstances.

1. “I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom *I have sent again*” (ver. 10—12). It appears from the epistle to the Colossians,

B b

that,

that, in truth, Onesimus was sent at that time to Colosse: "All my state shall Ty-chicus declare, whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, *with Onesimus*, a faithful and beloved brother." Colof. chap. iv ver. 7—9.

2. "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, *whom I have begotten in my bonds*" (ver. 10). It appears from the preceding quotation, that Onesimus was with St. Paul when he wrote the epistle to the Colossians; and that he wrote that epistle *in imprisonment* is evident from his declaration in the fourth chapter and third verse; "Praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also *in bonds*."

3. St. Paul bids Philemon prepare for him a lodging: "For I trust," says he, "that, through your prayers, I shall be given unto you." This agrees with the expectation of speedy deliverance, which he expressed in another epistle written during the same imprisonment: "Him" (Timothy) "I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me; *but I*

*“ trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come  
“ shortly.”* Phil. chap. ii ver. 23, 24.

4. As the letter to Philemon, and that to the Colossians, were written at the same time, and sent by the same messenger, the one to a particular inhabitant, the other to the church of Colosse, it may be expected that the same, or nearly the same, persons would be about St. Paul, and join with him, as was the practice, in the salutations of the epistle. Accordingly we find the names of Aristarcus, Marcus, Epaphras, Luke, and Demas, in both epistles. Timothy, who is joined with St. Paul in the superscription of the epistle to the Colossians, is joined with him in this. Tychicus did not salute Philemon, because he accompanied the epistle to Colosse, and would undoubtedly there see him. Yet the reader of the epistle to Philemon will remark one considerable diversity in the catalogue of saluting friends, and which shows that the catalogue was not copied from that to the Colossians. In the epistle to the Colossians, Aristarcus is called by St. Paul his fellow-prisoner, Colos. chap. iv. ver. 10.; in the epistle to Philemon, Aris-

tarchus is mentioned without any addition, and the title of fellow-prisoner is given to Epaphras\*.

And let it also be observed, that notwithstanding the close and circumstantial agreement between the two epistles, this is not the case of an opening left in a genuine writing, which an impostor is induced to fill up; nor of a reference to some writing not extant, which sets a sophist at work to supply the loss, in like manner as, because St. Paul was supposed, Colos. chap. iv. ver. 16, to allude to an epistle written by him to the Laodiceans, some person has from thence taken the hint of uttering a forgery under that title. The present, I say, is not that case; for Philemon's name is not mentioned in the epistle to the Colossians; Onesimus' servile condition is no where hinted at, any

\* Dr. Benson observes, and perhaps truly, that the appellation of fellow-prisoner, as applied by St. Paul to Epaphras, did not imply that they were imprisoned together *at the time*; any more than your calling a person your fellow-traveller, imports that you are then upon your travels. If he had, upon any former occasion, travelled with you, you might afterwards speak of him under that title. It is just so with the term fellow-prisoner.

more



more than his crime, his flight, or the place or time of his conversion. The story therefore of the epistle, if it be a fiction, is a fiction to which the author could not have been guided, by any thing he had read in St. Paul's genuine writings.

## No. III.

Ver. 4, 5. "I thank my God, making  
 " mention of thee always in my prayers ;  
 " hearing of thy love and faith, which thou  
 " hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward  
 " all saints."

"*Hearing of thy love and faith.*" This is the form of speech which St. Paul was wont to use towards those churches which he had not seen, or then visited ; see Rom. chap. i. ver. 8 ; Ephes. chap. i. ver. 15 ; Col. chap. i. ver. 3, 4. Toward those churches and persons, with whom he was previously acquainted, he employed a different phrase ; as, "I thank my God always on your behalf," 1 Cor. chap. i. ver. 4 ; 2 Thess. chap. i. ver. 3 ; or, "upon every remembrance of you," Phil. chap. i. ver. 3 ; 1 Thess. chap. i. ver. 2,

3; 2 Tim. chap. i. ver. 3; and never speaks of *bearing of them*. Yet, I think, it must be concluded, from the nineteenth verse of this epistle, that Philemon had been converted by St. Paul himself; “Albeit, I do not say to thee, how *thou owest unto me* even thine ownself besides.” Here then is a peculiarity. Let us enquire whether the epistle supplies any circumstance which will account for it. We have seen that it may be made out, not from the epistle itself, but from a comparison of the epistle with that to the Colossians, that Philemon was an inhabitant of Colosse; and it farther appears, from the epistle to the Colossians, that St. Paul had never been in that city; “I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh.” Col. ch. ii. ver. 1. Although, therefore, St. Paul had formerly met with Philemon at some other place, and had been the immediate instrument of his conversion, yet Philemon’s faith and conduct afterwards, inasmuch as he lived in a city which St. Paul had never visited, could only be known to him by fame and reputation.

No.

## No. IV.

The tenderness and delicacy of this epistle have been long admired : “ Though I might  
 “ be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that  
 “ which is convenient, yet for love’s sake  
 “ I rather beseech thee, being such a one as  
 “ Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of  
 “ Jesus Christ. I beseech thee for my son  
 “ Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my  
 “ bonds.” There is something certainly very  
 melting and persuasive in this, and every  
 part of the epistle. Yet, in my opinion,  
 the character of St. Paul prevails in it  
 throughout. The warm, affectionate, au-  
 thoritative teacher is interceding with an  
 absent friend for a beloved convert. He  
 urges his suit with an earnestness, befitting  
 perhaps not so much the occasion, as the ar-  
 dour and sensibility of his own mind. Here  
 also, as every where, he shows himself con-  
 scious of the weight and dignity of his mis-  
 sion ; nor does he suffer Philemon for a mo-  
 ment to forget it ; “ I *might* be much bold  
 “ in Christ to enjoin thee that which is

“convenient.” He is careful also to recal, though obliquely, to Philemon’s memory, the sacred obligation under which he had laid him, by bringing to him the knowledge of Jesus Christ; “I do not say to thee, how  
“thou owest to me even thine own self  
“besides.” Without laying aside, therefore, the apostolic character, our author softens the imperative style of his address, by mixing with it every sentiment and consideration that could move the heart of his correspondent. Aged and in prison, he is content to supplicate and entreat. Onesimus was rendered dear to him by his conversion and his services; the child of his affliction, and “ministering unto him in the  
“bond of the gospel.” This ought to recommend him; whatever had been his fault, to Philemon’s forgiveness: “Receive him as  
“myself, as my own bowels.” Every thing, however, should be voluntary. St. Paul was determined that Philemon’s compliance should flow from his own bounty: “With-  
“out thy mind would I do nothing, that  
“thy benefit should not be as it were of  
“necessity, but willingly; trusting never-  
theless

theless to his gratitude and attachment for the performance of all that he requested, and for more : “ Having confidence in thy  
“ obedience, I wrote unto thee, knowing  
“ that thou wilt also do more than I say.”

St. Paul’s discourse at Miletus ; his speech before Agrippa ; his epistle to the Romans, as hath been remarked (No. VIII.) ; that to the Galatians, chap. iv. ver. 11—20 ; to the Philippians, chap. i. ver. 29—ch. ii ver. 2 ; the second to the Corinthians, chap. vi. ver. 1—13 ; and indeed some part or other of almost every epistle exhibits examples of a similar application to the feelings and affections of the persons whom he addresses. And it is observable, that these pathetic effusions, drawn for the most part from his own sufferings and situation, usually precede a command, soften a rebuke, or mitigate the harshness of some disagreeable truth.

## CHAP. XV.

## THE SUBSCRIPTIONS OF THE EPISTLES.

SIX of these *subscriptions* are false or improbable; that is, they are either absolutely contradicted by the contents of the epistle, or are difficult to be reconciled with them.

I. The subscription of the first epistle to the Corinthians states that it was written from Philippi, notwithstanding that, in the sixteenth chapter and the eighth verse of the epistle, St. Paul informs the Corinthians, that he will “tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost;” and notwithstanding that he begins the salutations in the epistle, by telling them “the churches of Asia salute you;” a pretty evident indication that he himself was in Asia at this time.

II. The epistle to the Galatians is by the subscription dated from Rome; yet, in the epistle itself, St. Paul expresses his surprise that

“ that they were *so soon* removing from him “ that called them;” whereas his journey to Rome was ten years posterior to the conversion of the Galatians. And what, I think, is more conclusive, the author, though speaking of himself in this more than any other epistle, does not once mention his bonds, or call himself a prisoner; which he had not failed to do in every one of the four epistles written from that city, and during that imprisonment.

III. The first epistle to the Theſſalonians was written, the ſubſcription tell us, from Athens; yet the epistle refers expreſſly to the coming of Timotheus from Theſſalonica (ch. iii. ver. 6); and the hiſtory informs us, Acts xviii. ver. 5, that Timothy came out of Macedonia to St. Paul at *Corinth*.

IV. The ſecond epistle to the Theſſalonians is dated, and without any diſcoverable reaſon, from Athens alſo. If it be truly the *ſecond*; if it refer, as it appears to do (ch. ii ver. 2), to the firſt, and the firſt was written from Corinth, the place muſt be erroneouſly aſſigned, for the hiſtory does  
not

not allow us to suppose that St. Paul, after he had reached Corinth, went back to Athens.

V. The first epistle to Timothy the subscription asserts to have been sent from Laodicea; yet, when St. Paul writes, "I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus," *προσευχομενος εις Μακεδονιαν* (when I set out "for Macedonia)," the reader is naturally led to conclude, that he wrote the letter upon his arrival in that country.

VI. The epistle to Titus is dated from Nicopolis in Macedonia, whilst no city of that name is known to have existed in that province.

The use, and the only use, which I make of these observations, is to show, how easily errors and contradictions steal in where the writer is not guided by original knowledge. There are only eleven distinct assignments of date to St. Paul's epistles (for the four written from Rome may be considered as plainly cotemporary); and of these, six seem to be erroneous. I do not attribute any authority to these subscriptions. I believe them to have been conjectures founded sometimes upon loose traditions, but more



generally upon a consideration of some particular text, without sufficiently comparing in with other parts of the epistle, with different epistles, or with the history. Suppose then that the subscriptions had come down to us as authentic parts of the epistles, there would have been more contrarieties and difficulties arising out of these final verses, than from all the rest of the volume. Yet, if the epistles had been forged, the whole must have been made up of the same elements as those of which the subscriptions are composed, viz. tradition, conjecture, and inference : and it would have remained to be accounted for, how, whilst so many errors were crowded into the concluding clauses of the letters, so much consistency should be preserved in other parts.

The same reflection arises from observing the oversights and mistakes which learned men have committed, when arguing upon allusions which relate to time and place, or when endeavouring to digest scattered circumstances into a continued story. It is indeed the same case ; for these subscriptions must be regarded as ancient scholia,  
and

and is nothing more. Of this liability to error I can present the reader with a notable instance; and which I bring forward for no other purpose than that to which I apply the erroneous subscriptions. Ludovicus Capellus, in that part of his *Historia Apostolica Illustrata*, which is entitled *De Ordine Epist. Paul.* writing upon the second epistle to the Corinthians, triumphs unmercifully over the want of sagacity in Baronius, who, it seems, makes St. Paul write his epistle to Titus from Macedonia upon his second visit into that province; whereas it appears from the history, That Titus, instead of being in Crete where the epistle places him, was at that time sent by the apostle from Macedonia to Corinth. “Animadvertere est,” says Capellus, “magnam hominis illius *αελεψιαν*, qui vult Titum a Paulo in Crete tam abductum, illicque relictum, cum inde Nicopolim navigaret, quem temen agnoscit a Paulo ex Macedoniâ missum esse Corinthum.” This probably will be thought a detection of inconsistency in Baronius. But what is the most remarkable, is, that in the same chapter in which he thus indulges

dulges his contempt of Baronius's judgment, Capellus himself falls into an error of the same kind, and more gross and palpable than that which he reproves. For he begins the chapter by stating the second epistle to the Corinthians and the first epistle to Timothy to be nearly cotemporary; to have been both written during the apostle's second visit into Macedonia; and that a doubt subsisted concerning the immediate priority of their dates; "Posterior adeosdem  
 "Corinthios epistola, et prior ad Timo-  
 "theum certant de prioritare, et sub judice  
 "lis est; utraque autem scripta est paulo  
 "postquam Paulus Epheso discessisset, adeo-  
 "que dum Macedoniam peragraret, sed  
 "utra tempore præcedat, non liquet." Now, in the first place, it is highly improbable that the two epistles should have been written either nearly together, or during the same journey through Macedonia; for in the epistle to the Corinthians, Timothy appears to have been *with* St. Paul; in the epistle addressed to him, to have been left behind at Ephesus, and not only left behind, but directed to continued there, till St. Paul should

should return to that city. In the second place it is inconceivable, that a question should be proposed concerning the priority of date of the two epistles ; for, when St. Paul, in his epistle to Timothy, opens his address to him by saying, “ as I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus when I went into Macedonia,” no reader can doubt but that he here refers to the *last* interview which had passed between them ; that he had not seen him since ; whereas if the epistle be posterior to that to the Corinthians, yet written upon the same visit into Macedonia, this could not be true ; for as Timothy was along with St. Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians, he must, upon this supposition, have passed over to St. Paul in Macedonia after he had been left by him at Ephesus, and must have returned to Ephesus again before the epistle was written. What misled Ludovicus Capellus was simply this, that he had entirely overlooked Timothy’s name in the superscription of the second epistle to the Corinthians. Which oversight appears not only in the quotation which we have given,

but

but from his telling us, as he does, that Timothy came from Ephesus to St. Paul at *Corinth*, whereas the superscription proves that Timothy was already with St. Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians from Macedonia.

## CHAP. XVI.

## THE CONCLUSION.

**I**N the outset of this enquiry, the reader was directed to consider the Acts of the Apostles and the thirteen epistles of St. Paul as certain ancient manuscripts lately discovered in the closet of some celebrated library. We have adhered to this view of the subject. External evidence of every kind has been removed out of sight; and our endeavours have been employed to collect the indications of truth and authenticity, which appeared to exist in the writings themselves, and to result from a comparison of their different parts. It is not however necessary to continue this supposition longer. The testimony which other remains of cotemporary, or the monuments of adjoining ages afford to the reception, notoriety, and public estimation of a book, form no doubt the first proof of its genuineness. And in no books whatever is this proof more complete, than  
in

in those at present under our consideration. The enquiries of learned men, and, above all, of the excellent Lardner, who never overstates a point of evidence, and whose fidelity in citing his authorities has in no one instance been impeached, have established, concerning these writings, the following propositions :

I. That in the age immediately posterior to that in which St. Paul lived, his letters were publicly read and acknowledged.

Some of them are quoted or alluded to by almost every Christian writer that followed, by Clement of Rome, by Hermas, by Ignatius, by Polycarp, disciples or contemporaries of the apostles; by Justin Martyr, by the churches of Gaul, by Irenæus, by Athenagoras, by Theophilus, by Clement of Alexandria, by Hermias, by Tertullian, who occupied the succeeding age. Now when we find a book quoted or referred to by an ancient author, we are entitled to conclude, that it was read and received in the age and country in which that author lived. And this conclusion does not, in any degree, rest upon the judgment or

character of the author making such reference. Proceeding by this rule, we have, concerning the first epistle to the Corinthians in particular, within forty years after the epistle was written, evidence, not only of its being extant at Corinth, but of its being known and read at Rome. Clement, bishop of that city, writing to the church of Corinth, uses these words: Take into  
 “ your hands the epistle of the blessed Paul  
 “ the apostle. What did he at first write  
 “ unto you in the beginning of the gospel ?  
 “ Verily he did by the spirit admonish you  
 “ concerning himself and Cephas and Apol-  
 “ los, because that even then you did form  
 “ parties\*.” This was written at a time when probably some must have been living at Corinth, who remembered St. Paul’s ministry there and the receipt of the epistle. The testimony is still more valuable, as it shows that the epistles were preserved in the churches to which they were sent, and that they were spread and propagated from them to the rest of the Christian community. Agreeably to which natural mode

\* See Lardner, vol. xii. p. 22.



and order of their publication, Tertullian, a century afterwards, for proof of the integrity and genuineness of the apostolic writings, bids "any one, who is willing to exercise his curiosity profitably in the business of their salvation, to visit the apostolical churches, in which their very authentic letters are recited, *ipsæ authenticæ literæ eorum recitantur*." Then he goes on: "Is Achaia near you? You have Corinth. If you are not far from Macedonia, you have Philippi, you have Thessalonica. If you can go to Asia, you have Ephesus; but if you are near to Italy, you have Rome\*." I adduce this passage to show, that the distinct churches or Christian societies, to which St. Paul's epistles were sent, subsisted for some ages afterwards; that his several epistles were all along respectively read in those churches; that Christians at large received them from those churches, and appealed to those churches for their originality and authenticity.

Arguing in like manner from citations and allusions, we have, within the space of a hundred and fifty years from the time

\* Lardner, vol. ii. p. 598.

that the first of St. Paul's epistles was written, proofs of almost all of them being read, in Palestine, Syria, the countries of Asia Minor, in Egypt, in that part of Africa which used the Latin tongue, in Greece, Italy, and Gaul\*. I do not mean simply to assert, that, within the space of a hundred and fifty years, St. Paul's epistles were read in those countries, for I believe that they were read and circulated from the beginning; but that proofs of their being so read occur within that period. And when it is considered how few of the primitive Christians wrote, and of what was written how much is lost, we are to account it extraordinary, or rather as a sure proof of the extensiveness of the reputation of these writings, and of the general respect in which they were held, that so many testimonies, and of such antiquity, are still extant. " In the remaining works of Irenæus, Clement of Alexandria, and Tertullian, there are perhaps more and larger quotations of the small volume of the New Testament, than of all the works

\* See Lardner's Recapitulation, vol. xii. p. 53.

" of

“ of Cicero, in the writings of all characters  
 “ for several ages\*.” We must add, that  
 the epistles of Paul come in for their full  
 share of this observation; and that all the  
 thirteen epistles, except that to Philemon,  
 which is not quoted by Irenæus or Clement,  
 and which probably escaped notice merely  
 by its brevity, are severally cited, and ex-  
 pressly recognized as St. Paul’s, by each of  
 these Christian writers. The Ebionites, an  
 early, though inconsiderable Christian sect,  
 rejected St. Paul and his epistles †; that is,  
 they rejected these epistles, not because they  
 were not, but because they were St. Paul’s;  
 and because, adhering to the obligation of  
 the Jewish law, they chose to dispute his  
 doctrine and authority. Their suffrage as  
 to the genuineness of the epistles does not  
 contradict that of other Christians. Mar-  
 cion, an heretical writer in the former part  
 of the second century, is said by Tertullian to  
 have rejected three of the epistles which we  
 now receive, viz. the two Epistles to Timo-  
 thy and the epistle to Titus. It appears to

\* *Vide* Lardner’s Recapitulation, vol. xii. p. 53.

† Lardner, vol. ii. p. 808.

me not improbable, that Marcion might make some such distinction as this, that no apostolic epistle was to be admitted which was not read or attested by the church to which it was sent; for it is remarkable that, together with these epistles to private persons, he rejected also the catholic epistles. Now the catholic epistles and the epistles to private persons agree in the circumstance of wanting this particular species of attestation. Marcion, it seems, acknowledged the epistle to Philemon, and is upbraided for his inconsistency in doing so by Tertullian\*, who asks "why, when he received a letter written to a single person, he should refuse two to Timothy and one to Titus composed upon the affairs of the church?" This passage so far favours our account of Marcion's objection, as it shows that the objection was supposed by Tertullian to have been founded in something, which belonged to the nature of a private letter.

Nothing of the works of Marcion remains. Probably he was, after all, a rash, arbitrary, licentious critic (if he deserved

\* Lardner, vol. xiv. p. 455.

indeed

indeed the name of critic) and who offered no reason for his determination. What St. Jerome says of him intimates this, and is beside founded in good sense; speaking of him and Basilides, "if they had assigned any reasons," says he, "why they did not reckon these epistles," viz. the first and second to Timothy and the epistle to Titus, "to be the apostle's, we would have endeavoured to have answered them, and perhaps might have satisfied the reader; but when they take upon them, by their own authority, to pronounce one epistle to be Paul's, and another not, they can only be replied to in the same manner\*." Let it be remembered, however, that Marcion received ten of these epistles. His authority therefore, even if his credit had been better than it is, forms a very small exception to the uniformity of the evidence. Of Basilides we know still less than we do of Marcion. The same observation however belongs to him, viz. that his objection, as far as appears from this passage of St. Jerome, was con-

\* Lardner, vol. xiv. p. 458.

fixed to the three private epistles. Yet is this the only opinion which can be said to disturb the consent of the two first centuries of the Christian æra; for as to Tatian, who is reported by Jerome alone to have rejected some of St. Paul's epistles, the extravagant or rather delirious notions into which he fell, take away all weight and credit from his judgment. If, indeed, Jerome's account of this circumstance be correct; for it appears from much older writers than Jerome, that Tatian owned and used many of these epistles\*.

II. They, who in those ages disputed about so many other points, agreed in acknowledging the scriptures now before us. Contending sects appealed to them in their controversies with equal and unreserved submission. When they were urged by one side, however they might be interpreted or misinterpreted by the other, their authority was not questioned: "Reliqui omnes," says Irenæus, speaking of Marcion, "falso scientiæ nomine inflati, scripturas quidem

\* Lardner, vol. i. p. 313.

“ confitentur, interpretationes vero con-  
“ vertunt\*.”

III. When the genuineness of some other writings which were in circulation, and even of a few which are now received into the canon, was contested, these were never called into dispute. Whatever was the objection, or whether, in truth, there ever was any real objection to the authenticity of the second epistle of Peter, the second and third of John, the epistle of James, or that of Jude, or to the book of the Revelations of St. John, the doubts that appear to have been entertained concerning them, exceedingly strengthen the force of the testimony as to those writings, about which there was no doubt; because it shows, that the matter was a subject, amongst the early Christians, of examination and discussion; and that, where there was any room to doubt, they did doubt.

What Eusebius hath left upon the subject is directly to the purpose of this observation. Eusebius, it is well known, di-

\* Iren. advers. Hær. quoted by Lardner, vol. xv. p. 425.

vided the ecclesiastical writings which were extant in his time into three classes; the “*ἀναντιρρητα*, uncontradicted,” as he calls them in one chapter; or “*scriptures univ-*”  
 “*versally acknowledged*,” as he calls them in another; the “*controverted, yet well*”  
 “*known and approved by many*,” and “*the spurious.*” What were the shades of difference in the books of the second, or in those of the third class; or what it was precisely that he meant by the term *spurious*, it is not necessary in this place to enquire. It is sufficient for us to find, that the thirteen epistles of St. Paul are placed by him in the first class without any sort of hesitation or doubt.

It is farther also to be collected from the chapter in which this distinction is laid down, that the method made use of by Eusebius, and by the Christians of his time, viz. the close of the third century, in judging concerning the sacred authority of any books, was to enquire after and consider the testimony of those who lived near the age of the apostles\*.

\* Lardner, vol. viii. p. 106.



IV. That no ancient writing, which is attested as these epistles are, hath had its authenticity disproved, or is in fact questioned. The controversies which have been moved concerning suspected writings, as the epistles, for instance, of Phalaris, or the eighteen epistles of Cicero, begin by showing that this attestation is wanting. That being proved, the question is thrown back upon internal marks of spuriousness or authenticity; and in these the dispute is occupied. In which disputes it is to be observed, that the contested writings are commonly attacked by arguments drawn from some opposition which they betray to “authentic history,” to “true epistles,” to “the real sentiments or circumstances of the author whom they personate\*,” which authentic history, which true epistles, which real sentiments themselves, are no other than ancient documents, whose early existence and reception can be proved, in the manner in which the writings before us

\* See the tracts written in the controversy between Tunstall and Middleton upon certain suspected epistles ascribed to Cicero.

are traced up to the age of their reputed author, or to ages near to his. A modern who sits down to compose the history of some ancient period, has no stronger evidence to appeal to for the most confident assertion, or the most undisputed fact, that he delivers, than writings, whose genuineness is proved by the same medium through which we evince the authenticity of ours. Nor, whilst he can have recourse to such authorities as these, does he apprehend any uncertainty in his accounts, from the suspicion of spuriousness or imposture in his materials.

V. It cannot be shown that any forgeries, properly so called\*, that is, writings published under the name of the person who did not compose them, made their appearance in the first century of the Christian æra, in which century these epistles undoubtedly existed. I shall set down under this proposition the guarded words of Lardner him-

\* I believe that there is a great deal of truth in Dr. Lardner's observations, that comparatively few of those books, which we call apocryphal, were strictly and originally forgeries. See Lardner, vol. xii. p. 167.

self;

self: "There are no quotations of any books of  
 " them (spurious and apocryphal books) in  
 " the apostolical fathers, by whom I mean  
 " Barnabas, Clement of Rome, Hermas,  
 " Ignatius, and Polycarp, whose writings  
 " reach from the year of our Lord 70 to  
 " the year 108. *I say this confidently, because*  
 " *I think it has been proved.*" Lardner,  
 vol. xii. p. 158.

Nor when they did appear were they  
 much used by the primitive Christians.  
 " Irenæus quotes not any of these books.  
 " He mentions some of them, but he never  
 " quotes them. The same may be said of  
 " Tertullian : he has mentioned a book  
 " called 'Acts of Paul and Thecla;' but it is  
 " only to condemn it. Clement of Alexan-  
 " dria and Origen have mentioned and quot-  
 " ed several such books, but never as autho-  
 " rity, and sometimes with express marks  
 " of dislike. Eusebius quotes no such books  
 " in any of his works. He has mentioned  
 " them indeed, but how ? Not by way of  
 " approbation, but to show that they were  
 " of little or no value ; and that they never  
 " were received by the sounder part of  
 " Chris-

“Christians.” Now, if with this, which is advanced after the most minute and diligent examination, we compare what the same cautious writer had before said of our received scriptures, “that in the works of  
“three only of the above-mentioned fa-  
“thers, there are more and larger quota-  
“tions of the small volume of the New  
“Testament, than of all the works of Ci-  
“cero in the writers of all characters for  
“several ages;” and if, with the marks of obscurity or condemnation, which accompanied the mention of the several apocryphal Christian writings, when they happened to be mentioned at all, we contrast what Dr. Lardner’s work completely and in detail makes out concerning the writings which we defend, and what, having so made out, he thought himself authorized in his conclusion to assert, that these books were not only received from the beginning, but received with the greatest respect; have been publicly and solemnly read in the assemblies of Christians throughout the world, in every age from that time to this; early translated into the languages of divers coun-  
tries

tries and people ; commentaries writ to explain and illustrate them ; quoted by way of proof in all arguments of a religious nature ; recommended to the perusal of unbelievers, as containing the authentic account of the Christian doctrine ; when we attend, I say, to this representation, we perceive in it, not only full proof of the early notoriety of these books, but a clear and sensible line of discrimination, which separates these from the pretensions of any others.

The epistles of St. Paul stand particularly free of any doubt or confusion that might arise from this source. Until the conclusion of the fourth century, no intimation appears of any attempt whatever being made to counterfeit these writings ; and then it appears only of a single and obscure instance. Jerome, who flourished in the year 392, has this expression : “ *Legunt quidam et ad Laodicenses ; sed ad omnibus explo-* “ *ditur ;*” there is also an epistle to the Laodiceans, but it is rejected by every body\*. Theodoret, who wrote in the year 423, speaks of this epistle in the same

\* Lardner, vol. x. p. 103.

terms\*. Beside these, I know not whether any ancient writer mentions it. It was certainly unnoticed during the three first centuries of the church; and when it came afterwards to be mentioned, it was mentioned only to show, that, though such a writing did exist, it obtained no credit. It is probable that the forgery to which Jerome alludes, is the epistle which we now have under that title. If so, as hath been already observed, it is nothing more than a collection of sentences from the genuine epistles; and was perhaps, at first, rather the exercise of some idle pen, than any serious attempt to impose a forgery upon the public. Of an epistle to the Corinthians under St. Paul's name, which was brought into Europe in the present century, antiquity is entirely silent. It was unheard of for sixteen centuries; and at this day, though it be extant, and was first found in the Armenian language, it is not, by the Christians of that country, received into their scriptures. I hope, after this, that there is no reader who will think there is any competition of cre-

\* Lardner, vol. xi. p. 88.

dit, or of external proof, between these and the received epistles; or rather, who will not acknowledge the evidence of authenticity to be confirmed by the want of success which attended imposture.

When we take into our hands the letters which the suffrage and consent of antiquity hath thus transmitted to us, the first thing that strikes our attention is the air of reality and business, as well as of seriousness and conviction, which pervades the whole. Let the sceptic read them. If he be not sensible of these qualities in them, the argument can have no weight with him. If he be; if he perceive in almost every page the language of a mind actuated by real occasions, and operating upon real circumstances, I would wish it to be observed, that the proof which arises from this perception is not to be deemed occult or imaginary, because it is incapable of being drawn out in words, or of being conveyed to the apprehension of the reader in any other way, than by sending him to the books themselves.

And here, in its proper place, comes in

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the argument which it has been the office of these pages to unfold. St. Paul's epistles are connected with the history by their particularity, and by the numerous circumstances which are found in them. When we descend to an examination and comparison of these circumstances, we not only observe the history and the epistles to be independent documents unknown to, or at least unconsulted by, each other, but we find the substance, and oftentimes very minute articles, of the history, recognized in the epistles, by allusions and references, which can neither be imputed to *design*, nor, without a foundation in truth, be accounted for by accident, by hints and expressions, and single words dropping as it were fortuitously from the pen of the writer, or drawn forth, each by some occasion proper to the place in which it occurs, but widely removed from any view to consistency or agreement. These, we know, are effects which reality naturally produces, but which, without reality, at the bottom, can hardly be conceived to exist.

When therefore, with a body of external  
evi-



evidence, which is relied upon, and which experience proves may safely be relied upon, in appreciating the credit of ancient writings, we combine characters of genuineness and originality which are not found, and which, in the nature and order of things, cannot be expected to be found in spurious compositions ; whatever difficulties we may meet with in other topics of the Christian evidence, we can have little in yielding our assent to the following conclusions : that there was such a person as St. Paul ; that he lived in the age which we ascribe to him ; that he went about preaching the religion of which Jesus Christ was the founder ; and that the letters which we now read were actually written by him upon the subject, and in the course of that his ministry.

And if it be true that we are in possession of the very letters which St. Paul wrote, let us consider what confirmation they afford to the Christian history. In my opinion they substantiate the whole transaction. The great object of modern research is to come at the epistolary correspondence of the times. Amidst the obscurities, the silence, or the

contradictions of history, if a letter can be found, we regard it as the discovery of a land-mark ; as that by which we can correct, adjust, or supply the imperfections and uncertainties of other accounts. One cause of the superior credit which is attributed to letters is this, that the facts which they disclose generally come out *incidentally*, and therefore without design to mislead the public by false or exaggerated accounts. This reason may be applied to St. Paul's epistles with as much justice as to any letters whatever. Nothing could be farther from the intention of the writer than to record any part of his history. That his history was *in fact* made public by these letters, and has by the same means been transmitted to future ages, is a secondary and unthought-of effect. The sincerity therefore of the apostle's declarations cannot reasonably be disputed ; at least we are sure that it was not vitiated by any desire of setting himself off to the public at large. But these letters form a part of the muniments of Christianity, as much to be valued for their contents, as for their originality. A more inestimable

estimable treasure the care of antiquity could not have sent down to us. Beside the proof they afford of the general reality of St. Paul's history, of the knowledge which the author of the Acts of the Apostles had obtained of that history, and the consequent probability that he was, what he professes himself to have been, a companion of the apostle's; beside the support they lend to these important inferences, they meet specifically some of the principal objections upon which the adversaries of Christianity have thought proper to rely. In particular they show,

I. That Christianity was not a story set on foot amidst the confusions which attended and immediately preceded the destruction of Jerusalem; when many extravagant reports were circulated, when men's minds were broken by terror and distress, when amidst the tumults that surrounded them enquiry was impracticable. These letters show incontrovertibly that the religion had fixed and established itself before this state of things took place.

II. Whereas it hath been insinuated, that our gospels may have been made up of re-

ports and stories, which were current at the time, we may observe that, with respect to the epistles, this is impossible. A man cannot write the history of his own life, from reports; nor, what is the same thing, be led by reports to refer to passages and transactions in which he states himself to have been immediately present and active. I do not allow that this insinuation is applied to the historical part of the New Testament with any colour of justice or probability; but I say, that to the epistles it is not applicable at all,

III. These letters prove that the converts to Christianity were not drawn from the barbarous, the mean, or the ignorant set of men, which the representations of infidelity would sometimes make them. We learn from letters the character not only of the writer, but, in some measure, of the persons to whom they are written. To suppose that these letters were addressed to a rude tribe, incapable of thought or reflection, is just as reasonable as to suppose Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding to have been written for the instruction of savages.

Whatever,

Whatever may be thought of these letters in other respects, either of diction or argument, they are certainly removed as far as possible from the habits and comprehension of a barbarous people.

IV. St. Paul's history, I mean so much of it as may be collected from his letters, is so *implicated* with that of the other apostles, and with the substance indeed of the Christian history itself, that I apprehend it will be found impossible to admit St. Paul's story (I do not speak of the miraculous part of it) to be true, and yet to reject the rest as fabulous. For instance, can any one believe that there was such a man as Paul, a preacher of Christianity in the age which we assign to him, and *not* believe that there were also at the same time such men as Peter and James, and other apostles, who had been companions of Christ during his life, and who after his death published and avowed the same things concerning him which Paul taught? Judea, and especially Jerusalem, was the scene of Christ's ministry. The witnesses of his miracles lived there. St. Paul, by his own account, as well as that  
of

of his historian, appears to have frequently visited that city ; to have carried on a communication with the church there ; to have associated with the rulers and elders of that church, who were some of them apostles ; to have acted, as occasions offered, in correspondence, and sometimes in conjunction with them. Can it, after this, be doubted, but that the religion and the general facts relating to it, which St. Paul appears by his letters to have delivered to the several churches which he established at a distance, were at the same time taught and published at Jerusalem itself, the place where the business was transacted ; and taught and published by those who had attended the founder of the institution in his miraculous, or pretendedly miraculous, ministry ?

It is observable, for so it appears both in the epistles and from the Acts of the Apostles, that Jerusalem, and the society of believers in that city long continued the centre from which the missionaries of the religion issued with which all other churches maintained a correspondence and connection, to which they referred their doubts, and to whose

whose relief, in times of public distress, they remitted their charitable assistance. This observation I think material, because it proves that this was not the case of giving out accounts in one country of what is transacted in another, without affording the hearers an opportunity of knowing whether the things related were credited by any, or even published, in the place where they are reported to have passed.

V. St. Paul's letters furnish evidence (and what better evidence than a man's own letters can be desired?) of the soundness and sobriety of his judgment. His caution in distinguishing between the occasional suggestions of inspiration, and the ordinary exercise of his natural understanding, is without example in the history of human enthusiasm. His morality is every where calm, pure, and rational: adapted to the condition, the activity, and the business of social life, and of its various relations; free from the over-scrupulousness and austerities of superstition, and from, what was more perhaps to be apprehended, the abstractions of quietism, and the soarings and extravagancies of fanaticism.

ticism. His judgment concerning a hesitating conscience; his opinion of the moral indifference of many actions, yet of the prudence and even the duty of compliance, where non-compliance would produce evil effects upon the minds of the persons who observed it, is as correct and just as the most liberal and enlightened moralist could form at this day. The accuracy of modern ethics has found nothing to amend in these determinations.

What Lord Littelton has remarked of the preference ascribed by S. Paul to inward rectitude of principle above every other religious accomplishment is very material to our present purpose. “In his first epistle to the “Corinthians, ch. xiii. ver. 1—3, St. Paul “has these words: *Though I speak with the “tongue of men and of angels, and have not “charity, I am become as sounding brass, or “a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the “gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have “all faith, so that I could remove mountains, “and have not charity, I am nothing. And “though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,*



“ *and though I give my body to be burned,*  
 “ *and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*  
 “ Is this the language of enthusiasm?  
 “ Did ever enthusiast prefer that universal  
 “ benevolence which comprehendeth all  
 “ moral virtues, and which, as appeareth  
 “ by the following verses, is meant by cha-  
 “ rity here; did ever enthusiast, I say, pre-  
 “ fer that benevolence” (which we may add  
 is attainable by every man) “ to faith and  
 “ to miracles, to those religious opinions  
 “ which he had embraced, and to those su-  
 “ pernatural graces and gifts which he  
 “ imagined he had acquired: nay even to  
 “ the merit of martyrdom? It is not the  
 “ genius of enthusiasm to set moral virtues  
 “ infinitely below the merit of faith; and of  
 “ all moral virtues to value that least which  
 “ is most particularly enforced by St. Paul,  
 “ a spirit of candour, moderation, and  
 “ peace? Certainly neither the temper nor  
 “ the opinions of a man subject to fanatic  
 “ delusions are to be found in this passage.”  
 —Lord Lyttelton’s Considerations on the  
 conversion, &c.

I see no reason therefore to question the  
 integrity

integrity of his understanding. To call him a visionary, because he appealed to visions; or an enthusiast, because he pretended to inspiration, is to take the whole question for granted. It is to take for granted that no such visions or inspirations existed; at least it is to assume, contrary to his own assertions, that he had no other proofs than these to offer of his mission, or of the truth of his relations.

One thing I allow, that his letters every where discover great zeal and earnestness in the cause in which he was engaged; that is to say, he was convinced of the truth of what he taught; he was deeply impressed, but not more so than the occasion merited, with a sense of its importance. This produces a corresponding animation and solicitude in the exercise of his ministry. But would not these considerations, supposing them to be well founded, have holden the same place, and produced the same effect, in a mind the strongest and the most sedate?

VI. These letters are decisive as to the sufferings of the author; also as to the distressed state of the Christian church, and  
the

the dangers which attended the preaching of the gospel.

“Whereof I Paul am made a minister,  
“who now rejoice in my sufferings for you,  
“and fill up that which is behind of the  
“afflictions of Christ in my flesh, for his  
“body’s sake, which is the church.” Col.  
ch. i. ver. 24.

“If in this life only we have hope in  
“Christ, we are of all men the most misera-  
“ble.” Cor. ch. xv. ver. 19.

“Why stand we in jeopardy every  
“hour? I protest by your rejoicing, which  
“I have in Christ Jesus, I die daily. If,  
“after the manner of men, I have fought  
“with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth  
“it me if the dead rise not?” 1 Cor. ch.  
xv. ver. 30, &c.

“If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and  
“joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suf-  
“fer with him, that we may be also glorified  
“together. For I reckon that the sufferings  
“of this present time are not worthy to be  
“compared with the glory that shall be re-  
“vealed in us.” Rom. ch. viii. ver. 17, 18.

“Who

“ Who shall separate us from the love of  
“ Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or  
“ persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or  
“ peril, or sword? As it is written, for thy  
“ sake we are killed all the day long; we are  
“ accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”  
Rom. ch. viii. ver. 35, 36.

“ Rejoicing in hope, *patient in tribulation*,  
“ continuing instant in prayer.” Rom. ch.  
xii. ver. 12.

“ Now concerning virgins I have no  
“ commandment of the Lord; yet I give  
“ my judgment as one that hath obtained  
“ mercy of the Lord to be faithful. I sup-  
“ pose therefore that this is good *for the*  
“ *present distress*; I say, that it is good for a  
“ man so to be.” 1 Cor. ch. vii. ver. 25, 26.

“ For unto you it is given, in the behalf  
“ of Christ, not only to believe in him, but  
“ also to suffer for his sake, having the same  
“ conflict which ye saw in me, and now  
“ hear to be in me.” Phil. ch. i. ver. 29, 30.

“ God forbid that I should glory, save in  
“ the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by  
“ whom the world is crucified unto me,  
“ and I unto the world.”

“ From

“ From henceforth let no man trouble  
 “ me, for I bear in my body the marks of  
 “ the Lord Jesus.” Gal. ch. vi. ver. 14, 17.

“ Ye became followers of us, and of the  
 “ Lord, having received the word in much  
 “ affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.”  
 1 Theff. ch. i. ver. 6.

“ We ourselves glory in you in the  
 “ churches of God for your patience and  
 “ faith in all your persecutions and tribula-  
 “ tions that ye endure.” 2 Theff. ch. i. ver. 4.

We may seem to have accumulated texts unnecessarily; but beside that the point, which they are brought to prove, is of great importance, there is this also to be remarked in every one of the passages cited, that the allusion is drawn from the writer by the argument or the occasion; that the notice which is taken of his sufferings, and of the suffering condition of Christianity, is perfectly incidental, and is dictated by no design of stating the facts themselves. Indeed they are not stated at all: they may rather be said to be assumed. This is a distinction upon which we have relied a good deal in former parts of this treatise; and where the

writer's information cannot be doubted, it always, in my opinion, adds greatly to the value and credit of the testimony.

If any reader require from the apostle more direct and explicit assertions of the same thing, he will receive full satisfaction in the following quotations.

“ Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak  
 “ as a fool) I am more ; in labours more  
 “ abundant, in stripes above measure, in  
 “ prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of  
 “ the Jews five times received I forty stripes  
 “ save one; thrice was I beaten with rods,  
 “ once was I stoned; thrice I suffered ship-  
 “ wreck, a night and day I have been in  
 “ the deep ; in journeyings often, in perils  
 “ of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils  
 “ by mine own countrymen, in perils by  
 “ the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils  
 “ in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in  
 “ perils among false brethren ; in weariness  
 “ and painfulness, in watchings often,  
 “ in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in  
 “ cold and nakedness.” 2 Cor. ch. xi. ver.  
 23—28.

Can it be necessary to add more? “ I think  
 “ that

“ that God hath set forth us the apostles  
 “ last, as it were appointed to death; for we  
 “ are made a spectacle unto the world, and  
 “ to angels, and to men. Even unto this  
 “ present hour we both hunger and thirst,  
 “ and are naked, and are buffeted, and have  
 “ no certain dwelling-place, and labour,  
 “ working with our own hands: being re-  
 “ viled, we bless; being persecuted, we suf-  
 “ fer it; being defamed, we entreat: we are  
 “ made as the filth of the earth, and are  
 “ the off-scouring of all things unto this  
 “ day. 1 Cor. ch. iv. ver. 9—13. I sub-  
 join this passage to the former, because it  
 extends to the other apostles of Christianity  
 much of that which St. Paul declared con-  
 cerning himself.

In the following quotations, the reference  
 to the author's sufferings is accompanied  
 with a specification of time and place, and  
 with an appeal for the truth of what he  
 declares to the knowledge of the persons  
 whom he addresses: “ Even after that we  
 “ had suffered before, and were shamefully  
 “ entreated, *as ye know, at Philippi*, we were  
 “ bold in our God to speak unto you the  
 E e 2 “ gospel

“gospel of God with much contention.”  
1 Thess. ch. ii. ver. 2.

“But *thou hast fully known* my doctrine,  
“manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suf-  
“fering, persecutions, afflictions, which  
“came to me *at Antioch, at Iconium, at*  
“*Lystra*; what persecutions I endured;  
“but out of them all the Lord delivered  
“me.” 2 Tim. ch. iii. ver. 10, 11.

I apprehend that to this point, as far as the testimony of St. Paul is credited, the evidence from his letters is complete and full. It appears under every form in which it could appear, by occasional allusions and by direct assertions, by general declarations, and by specific examples.

VII. St. Paul in these letters asserts, in positive and unequivocal terms, his performance of miracles strictly and properly so called.

“He therefore that ministereth to you  
“the spirit, and worketh miracles (*εργα*  
“*δυναμεις*) among you, doth he it by the  
“works of the law, or by the hearing of  
“faith?” Gal. ch. iii. ver. 5.

“For I will not dare to speak of those  
“things which Christ hath not wrought by  
“me,



“ me\*, to make the Gentiles obedient, by  
 “ word and deed, through mighty signs and  
 “ wonders (εν δυναμει σημειων και τερατων),  
 “ by the power of the spirit of God; so that  
 “ from Jerusalem and round about unto Il-  
 “ lyricum I have fully preached the gospel  
 “ of Christ.” Rom. ch. xv. ver. 18, 19.

“ Truly the signs of an apostle were  
 “ wrought among you in all patience, in  
 “ signs and wonders and mighty deeds”  
 (εν σημειοις και τερασσι και δυναμεισι †). 2 Cor.  
 ch. xii. ver. 12.

These words, signs, wonders, and mighty  
 deeds (σημεια, και τερατα, και δυναμεις), are  
 the

\* *i. e.* “ I will speak of nothing but what Christ hath  
 wrought by me ;” or, as Grotius interprets it, “ Christ  
 hath wrought so great things by me, that I will not  
 dare to say what he hath not wrought.”

† To these may be added the following indirect allu-  
 sions, which, though, if they had stood alone, *i. e.* without  
 plainer texts in the same writings, they might have been  
 accounted dubious ; yet, when considered in conjunction  
 with the passages already cited, can hardly receive any  
 other interpretation than that which we give them.

“ My speech and my preaching was not with enticing  
 “ words of men’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the  
 “ spirit and of power ; that your faith should not stand in  
 “ the

the specific appropriate terms throughout the New Testament, employed when public sensible miracles are intended to be expressed. This will appear by consulting, amongst other places, the texts referred to in the note\* ; and it cannot be shown that they are ever employed to express any thing else.

Secondly, these words not only denote miracles as opposed to natural effects, but they denote visible, and what may be called external, miracles, as distinguished,

First, from *inspiration*. If St. Paul had meant to refer only to secret illuminations of his understanding, or secret influences

“the wisdom of man, but of the power of God.” 1 Cor. chap. ii. ver. 4, 5.

“The gospel, whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me, by the effectual working of his power.” Eph. ch. iii. ver. 7.

“For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me towards the Gentiles.” Gal. ch. ii. ver. 8.

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance.” 1 Thess. ch. i. ver. 5.

\* Mark, xvi. 20. Luke, xxiii. 8. John, ii. 11, 23 ; iii. 2 ; iv. 48, 54 ; xi. 49, Acts, ii. 22 ; iv. 30 ; v. 12 ; vi. 8 ; vii. 16 ; xiv. 3 ; xv. 12. Heb. ii. 4.

upon his will or affections, he could not, with truth, have represented them as "signs  
"and wonders *wrought* by him," of "signs  
"and wonders and mighty deeds wrought  
"amongst them."

Secondly, from *visions*. These would not, by any means, satisfy the force of the terms, "signs, wonders, and mighty deeds;" still less could they be said to be "*wrought*  
"by him," or "wrought *amongst* them:" nor are these terms and expressions anywhere applied to visions. When our author alludes to the supernatural communications which he had received, either by vision or otherwise, he uses expressions suited to the nature of the subject, but very different from the words which we have quoted. He calls them revelations, but never signs, wonders, or mighty deeds. "I will come," says he, "to visions and *revelations* of the  
"Lord;" and then proceeds to describe a particular instance, and afterwards adds, "lest I should be exalted above measure  
"through the abundance of the revelations,  
"there was given me a thorn in the flesh."

Upon the whole, the matter admits of no  
softening

softening qualification, or ambiguity whatever. If St. Paul did not work actual, sensible, public miracles, he has knowingly, in these letters, borne his testimony to a falsehood. I need not add, that, in two also of the quotations, he has advanced his assertion in the face of those persons amongst whom he declares the miracles to have been wrought.

Let it be remembered that the Acts of the Apostles describe various particular miracles wrought by St. Paul, which in their nature answer to the terms and expressions which we have seen to be used by St. Paul himself

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Here then we have a man of liberal attainments, and in other points of sound judgment who had addicted his life to the service of the gospel. We see him, in the prosecution of his purpose, travelling from country to country, enduring every species of hardship, encountering every extremity of danger, assaulted by the populace, punished by the magistrates, scourged, beat, stoned, left for dead; expecting, wherever he

he came, a renewal of the same treatment, and the same dangers, yet, when driven from one city, preaching in the next; spending his whole time in the employment, sacrificing to it his pleasures, his ease, his safety; persisting in this course to old age, unaltered by the experience of perverseness, ingratitude, prejudice, desertion; unsubdued by anxiety, want, labour, persecutions; unwearied by long confinement, undismayed by the prospect of death. Such was St. Paul. We have his letters in our hands; we have also a history purporting to be written by one of his fellow-travellers, and appearing, by a comparison with these letters, certainly to have been written by some person well acquainted with the transactions of his life. From the letters, as well as from the history, we gather not only the account which we have stated of *him*, but that he was one out of many who acted and suffered in the same manner; and that, of those who did so, several had been the companions of Christ's ministry, the ocular witnesses, or pretending to be such, of his miracles, and of his resurrection. We more-

over find this same person referring in his letters to his supernatural conversion, the particulars and accompanying circumstances of which are related in the history, and which accompanying circumstances, if all or any of them be true, render it impossible to have been a delusion. We also find him positively, and in appropriated terms, asserting, that he himself worked miracles, strictly and properly so called, in support of the mission which he executed; the history, meanwhile, recording various passages of his ministry, which come up to the extent of this assertion. The question is, whether falsehood was ever attested by evidence like this. Falsehoods, we know, have found their way into reports, into tradition, into books; but is an example to be met with, of a man voluntarily undertaking a life of want and pain, of incessant fatigue, of continual peril; submitting to the loss of his home and country, to stripes and stoning, to tedious imprisonment, and the constant expectation of a violent death, for the sake of carrying about a story of what was false, and of what, if false, he must have known to be so?

FINIS

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